

BACK TO SCHOOL: Do computers really give kids an edge?

CANADA'S

WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

Maclean's

SEPTEMBER 1, 1997

The Bouchard File

A psychiatrist's
controversial
report paints
the Quebec
premier as
insecure, vain
and in the grip
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WEEKLY
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This Week

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Back to school
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Canadian schools are consolidating class rooms at a dizzying pace. But while CD-ROMs and the Internet are a boon to lesson plans and homework assignments, critics charge they undermine the authority of parents and teachers and turn children into untested robots. In separate articles, Maclean's explores some of the hottest CD-ROMs and Internet sites designed for kids.

COVER

The Bouchard File

12 A secret psychiatrist's report, passed on to the Prime Minister's Office, portrays the Quebec premier as insecure, vain, paranoid and in the grip of a Francophone frenzy. The archrival's misdeeds, a copy of which was obtained by Maclean's, is certain to fuel the debate over the enigmatic Bouchard as the national unity issue heats up again.



Features



Back to school

56 Canadian schools are consolidating class rooms at a dizzying pace. But while CD-ROMs and the Internet are a boon to lesson plans and homework assignments, critics charge they undermine the authority of parents and teachers and turn children into untested robots. In separate articles, Maclean's explores some of the hottest CD-ROMs and Internet sites designed for kids.



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32 Ontario organizes a voluntary evacuation for residents of the volcanic, rugged Caribbean island of Montserrat as scientists warn that another major eruption could take place at any time. But many islanders are unhappy to leave and angered by Britain's resettlement package.



Pennies from heaven

74 With A Day Spoil, her supernatural thriller about a diner owner and a woman fighter trying to save a small town, Susan Miskin's novel is a hit in Northern Ontario. It has struck gold.

From The Editor

Profile of a premier



Canada's political season is coming back to life with a jump start. This week, Conservative Leader Jean Charest, fresh from a five-week European holiday, returns to Ottawa for a crucial meeting where he plans to make it clear he will continue as leader (page 8). The premiers will meet in Calgary in mid-September—without Quebec—to deal with national unity. Then, Parliament is set to reconvene, featuring the new leader of the Opposition, Preston Manning. And later, the Supreme Court of Canada will hear the federal government's challenge to Quebec's right to unilaterally declare itself independent. All of that is not to mention the furor that is surely to be unleashed about revelations that the federal government had access to a single psychological profile on Quebec Premier Jacques Bouchard in 1996. That document, obtained last week by Martin's, is one element that Ottawa Editor Anthony Wilson Smith used to explore the Bouchard enigma in this week's cover story (page 10).

The study by eminent Toronto psychiatrist Dr. Vivian Rakoff is included in another Lawrence Martin's magazine feature, *The Activist: Inside Bouchard and the Politics of Deceit*. Many of the conclusions of the profile are unsurprising—that Bouchard's shifting allegiances in political life reflect the ambivalence of the society he so closely represents. Perhaps the most controversial aspect is Rakoff's suggestion that Bouchard has an "extreme character disorder"—also described as "a form of narcissism"—that enables him to shut out the past and become totally committed to the present. Martin writes that if Bouchard does in-

deed suffer from the disorder, there is the alarming possibility that "he could convince himself his mores and fictions of a reality that bore no resemblance to established facts. It means that he could have important judgments on emotions changed, ephemeral in agency." Like trying to race near the pace of Quebec independence?

Among Martin's intriguing revelations—based on his reporting, not psychiatric psychiatry—are details of Bouchard's explosive temper. It can be set off by something as simple as the failure of his mail to have handwritten cookies available with his afternoon tea (page 16). Martin also describes Bouchard's dislike against Montreal Gazette reporter Sarah Scott after she asked him about his Blue Quebecois program and similar phonology used in Fran Gozmany. As Martin writes: "Bouchard jumped up from the table, his face lit in a burning rage, his voice at a full belter, raising down discussions on her 'How dare you! How dare you! What kind of journalist are you! Your paper is mad!'" In typical style, Bouchard later apologized to Scott.

The federal government did not need a psychiatrist's report to know that, in Bouchard, it is dealing with a highly successful leader with a keen awareness and a specific sense of his own mission. The unknown is how Prime Minister Jean Charest, returned with a relaxed majesty, will handle the new round of challenges as the new political season opens with a flourish. As former prime minister Brian Mulroney used to say: "Hang onto your hat."



Bouchard in Ottawa, 1996: essential

Robert Lewis

Newsroom Notes:

Back to class

Beginning next week, school's in again at *Macleans*—in the form of the In-Class Program. Started in 1978 when the magazine went weekly, the ICP now operates in 500 classrooms across Canada and reaches about 13,000 students. Using the magazine as the "textbook," teachers put their students through exercises in such areas as



Doing the In-Class Program: intensive

English, business, media and social studies. As the new goes to press each Sunday night, two Toronto-based high-school teachers who

work for the ICP, Peter Flaherty of Ryerson College and Institute and Alan Wainwright of St. Michael's College, prepare a special guide to the issue. The magazines are then shipped to the participating schools, along with monthly background on key public issues. The ICP also has a home page on the Web (www.ich-edu.com). Says Tracy McKinley, director of consumer marketing for *Macleans*: "The students enjoy learning with the magazine because they can easily relate to the subject matter." The knowledge that students are using *Macleans* in their classrooms also provides editors and writers with an extra incentive to stay on their toes.

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Olson at Arctambault house near Montreal, where Olson is being held; killers became celebrities

Prolonged suffering

How could you be so insensitive as to put the pictures of Clifford Olson and his victims on the front cover of the Aug. 18 issue ("A killer's plea")? The parents and relatives are already suffering as a result of his actions. Now, Olson has the opportunity to face them in his bid to become free of the penitentiary system. Most know that he will not get out, but do you have to splash him all over the cover and give him four pages to read your magazine? We lost a child as a result of this! I play many games and will think about our loss every day.

Rita and Geoff Wyle,
Capetown, B.C.

Shortly after my daughter, Nina, was murdered, I spoke to the mother of Jeanne-Marie Edward who was murdered by Marc Lépine at École polytechnique in 1989. I found that although the cause of the killer came immediately to mind, I had difficulty remembering the names or faces of his victims. Sadistic killers in this country have become

celebrities while their victims are forgotten. Thank you for recognizing on the cover of your magazine the lives of children who will never age, whose lives were cut short in an unspeakable terror. I am, however, heart-sore that you juxtaposed the faces of these children with the image of their sadistic killer, thereby sending into his overwriting firm for publicity. During his incarceration for these barbaric crimes, although he was supposed to have been banished from society, he continues to overshadow his victims and country alike. Few Canadians can resist the horror of being on the cover of Maclean's. Instead of offering a teaching tribute to child victims, your cover degrades a national tragedy.

Priscilla de Villiers
President, Canadian Against Violence
Employment Advertising in
Termination,
Burlington, Ont.

By putting Clifford Olson on the cover, you have not only hurt the relatives of his many victims, you have also given Olson exactly what he wants: more notoriety.

Daniel G. McLeary
Prince George, B.C.

I have the cover off the Aug. 18 issue of Maclean's magazine, and put it right where it belongs—the garbage.

Patry Le,
Surrey, B.C.

I read with disturbed fascination your story on Clifford Olson, including the personal attitude by Peter Worthington. I feel something is missing from your stories, however. I keep asking myself: "What were the forces that created Clifford Olson? Was he born a sociopath or was this monster created by abuse as a child or what?" I want to know how we can prevent the creation of any more like him while they are still children.

Murray D. Lombay
Aurora, Ont.

In response to criminology Prof. Neil Boyd's commentary regarding his advocacy of Clifford Olson's legal rights to a judicial review for early parole ("He is eligible for this review") his argument is compelling: the Canadian democratic system and rules of law are in danger of collapse for all citizens if new legislation is applied retroactively that I would like to ask him a question: why, why,

Questions remain

The article "Murder in Cold Lake" (Justice, Aug. 18) posed more questions than it answered. The relationship described in the article concerned a three-year courtship and a seven-year marriage. A romantic picture was painted, including their "going everywhere together," sloping marriage in Las Vegas, Nev., and a return visit to Las Vegas. The article stated that when Carol Meredith broke off her marriage to Barclay MacPhee, it came as a shock to their family and friends, who had the impression that "marital harmony" existed between them. What triggered Meredith to end her marriage with MacPhee? Was there evidence of emotional, psychological or physical violence?

P. S. Picot,
Pickering, Ont.

as are so many Canadian laws and policies, almost always solely concerned with the rights of convicted criminals while shunning protection and consideration for the innocent victims of their crimes, victims who sometimes continue to suffer long after the initial assault perpetrated against them?

Tom Kozick
Riverside

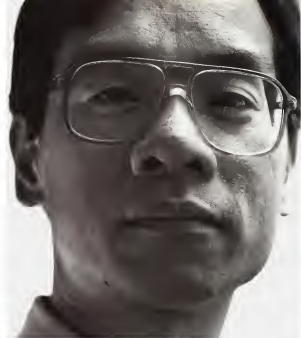
I have heard that news pertaining to sex and violence with books and magazines, thus enhancing the owner's book sales. Is this why the last issue was largely devoted to Clifford Olson? I find it revolting that you would place his picture and those of his victims on the cover and devote several pages inside to this depraved animal. Have you no consideration for his victims' families?

Clifford G. Norris
Surrey, B.C.

Depressing situation

My mother, Ilana Kelly, was killed on Air India Flight 182 in 1985. The ensuing investigations by the RCMP and the Canadian government could be called dismal in that situation were not so depressing. I'm a community trustee, "World, Aug. 18. My government has not even acknowledged that a bomb downed Flight 182. To do this would be to admit that the bomb was put on the plane in a B.C. airport and went through another Canadian airport that day. This sends a loud and clear message to those who report terrorism that they will likely get away with doing so in Canada.

Leona D. Kelly
Guelph, Ont.



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WHAT MATTERS TO CANADIANS

THE MAIL

Welcome comments

Regarding the belting of Barbara Amiel's credentials to comment on world politics ("Out of touch," *The Mail*, July 29) as the president of an apolitical foundation that annually awards a book prize in world politics/international relations, I am delighted when Amiel venturates into this vital heart of our lives. Amiel has travelled widely. She is no armchair commentator. If she expresses unconventional views, they are at least informed and stimulating. The goal of our foundation is to encourage intelligent debate. So I say bravo to Amiel, boo to your previous correspondent!

Nancy Geller
President, The Janet Geller Foundation
Toronto

Good intentions

Thank you for remembering the 10th anniversary of one of the most horrific events to affect Edmontonians ("A twisted remembrance," *Opening Notes*, Aug. 10). But the University of Edmonton you write about does not exist. Dr. Bob Charlton is an associate professor in the department of earth and atmospheric sciences at the University of Alberta, located in Edmonton.

Lawrence Constantinou,
Office of Public Affairs,
University of Alberta
Edmonton AB

'Perfectly Canadian'

Out of the mouths of babes: my five-year-old daughter looked at the cover of your Aug. 4 edition ("Dear Yankees") depicting the salacious war between Canada and the United States. She said "Monnaie, it looks like Canada and this other country are fighting over the fish. Why can't they just share?"

Justin Richard
Kamark, Ont.

Climbing mountains

In your Aug. 31 item about Marlene McInnes, you wrote *American Dick Bass* was the first to climb the seven tallest mountains in the world ("McInnes's high hopes," *Opening Notes*). What you meant was Bass was the first to climb the highest peak on each of the seven continents. But that, too, is debatable. Bass thought of Australia as a continent and walked up Mount Kosciuszko. Pat Morrow of Cairns, Alta., knew the continent was Australia and climbed the Carstensz Pyramid in Indonesia.

Art Bailey
Stouffville, Ont.

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Backstage



Anthony Wilson-Smith

Jean Charest: Staying on (for now)

American writer Elbert Hubbard observed: "A conservative is a man who is too cowardly to fight and too fat to run." As political punditry, the remark bears repeating only because it demonstrates how easy it is to be glib, succinct and demonstrably wrong, all in a single sentence. Consider, for example, Progressive Conservative leader Jean Charest. Call him what you will—used political opponents have done that repeatedly in the past 13 years—but after the voter he displayed through four election campaigns, a leadership race and two Quebec constitutional referendums, few can question his willingness to fight. And in the wake of a demanding diet-and-exercise regimen that has seen him shed 45 lb over the past year, the only visible bag left in his physical appearance is his taste for coffee-edge suits.

All of which is a good thing, because in the House of Commons appears poised to begin its first post-election session later this month, Charest faces the most challenging time of any of the five party leaders. Enough so that although the Tories increased their number of seats in 2006—from two to 25—in the June 2 election, there have been rumblings through the summer as party cronies that Charest will leave politics within the next year for the private sector. In fact, Charest, who returned last week from a month in Italy and a week in France with his family, concedes that in the period before he left, he thought of resigning "once a day." He was, he says, "exhausted"—fat and from the campaign, but from the 31 years of work and travel every week leading up to that.

Moreover, the Tories' disappointing showing outside of the Atlantic provinces and Quebec—winning only two seats in the rest of the country—provided little solace. But after what Charest describes as his first proper vacation in 12 years, thoughts of departing politics have been put aside—for now. "I'm around," said Charest in an interview last week, "and I'm content to be around. No other alternative is being considered."

In the ever-extended vocabulary of politics, that isn't even close to far less than a guarantee that he will lead the Tories through a full mandate and into another election. Few senior Tories expect him to do so. "It would be easy," says one longtime party insider, "to encourage him if he got a chance to make a ton of money with some law firm in a couple of years, and look at it." But it is also clear that far as long as he stays in Ottawa, Charest remains clearly focused on such issues as the survival of his party, his unacknowledged dislike of the Harper party and Premier Manning, and his increasingly sharp criticisms of Prime Minister Jean Charest's handling of the unity issue. "You cannot let a country sleepwalk over a cliff," he says, "but that is what is happening with no leadership in Ottawa."

This week, Charest returns to Ottawa for a three-day meeting of the new caucus. The session will include advice on specific policy issues and a primer on how MPs should conduct themselves, with briefings by people including former senior cabinet secretary Glen Skerfving, former Prime Minister's adviser Hugh Segal, and outgoing cabinet ministers Barbara McDougall and Jim Flaherty.

One paradox is that on a superficial level, the Tories' situation appears better than it really is. Since they have more than 12 seats, the Tories again have official party status, an opportunity to ask questions every day in the House of Commons, and access to the funds that allow parties to hire researchers and additional staff. Their continued strong presence in the Senate gives them additional support staff. "Now," Charest says, "we will have the minimum of funds we need."

And Charest—as leader of a recognized party—now gets an additional \$20,000 in annual salary on top of the \$64,400 he receives as an MP, and access to a chauffeur and car. He and his family may now be able to move up and out of the cramped three-bedroom townhouse in Hull that they bought more than a decade ago.

That is the good news. On the other side of the ledger, the Tories are the smallest of the five parties in the House of Commons, that will be reflected in the small amount of public exposure they get, and hamper fund-raising efforts. Because most MPs are newsworthy, they will begin with low profiles and inevitably make mistakes that will haunt them. In Ottawa, where the Tories placed most of their hopes and was only one seat, had feeling fingers between federal and provincial Tory organizers. Indeed, Tories thought the campaign too right-wing, and provincial Tories thought it not enough. Meanwhile, most of their support came from the Atlantic provinces—where voters wanted to punish the Liberals for previous spending cuts, and saw the Tories as their traditional alternative.

All of that leaves Charest in much the same position as, say, a hockey superstar like Mats Sundin of the Toronto Maple Leafs at a time when both men should be at the peak of their careers, they are stuck leading long-established but low-ranked teams, with no immediate chance to become a contender. But with training camp approaching, a hockey player such as Sundin can always request a trade—and take comfort in a traditional-line-of-duty salary. Charest has neither opportunity—only income, a manner spent staying in shape by jogging. Of that activity, he says, "I just hate it because it's boring as heck, and it takes any specific sense of purpose." The Tories must hope that Charest will not decide—at least too soon—that the same description now applies to his political career.

Opening Notes

Edited by BARBARA WYCKENS

Parliamentary spruce-up

The scaffolding is down from the Peace Tower and a gleaming new copper roof on the Centre Block on Parliament Hill is in full view where three years of renovations to the front have wrapped up. All in all, the work so far seems to be a success, at least according to comments from tourists last week. A thorough cleaning and months of detailed work by stone masons has left the Peace Tower and facade of the building a light sandy brown, in contrast to the still-gray-and-sooty stones of the East and West blocks. Visitor Gady Lombaro of Pontiac, Mich., was impressed by the difference. "That one," she says, pointing to the Peace Tower, "sure looks better than the others." Still, she was surprised that the fun is still old-copper green, while the Centre Block roof shines like a nation new. "That does look strange," says Lombaro.



Centre Block and Peace Tower cleaned up to shine like a million new pennies

Walk on government buildings in the area is far from over. Mass registers, which are expected to cost at least \$200 million, are scheduled to continue until 2003. The tower's roof will be replaced in a decade or so, when the copper is carved enough to justify repairs. Even the House and Senate will be ripped apart and rebuilt. That will displace MPs into a makeshift chamber in the West Block cafeteria from 2002 to 2006, followed by sessions from 2006 until 2010. The cafeteria debates should be quite a mouthful.

A not-so-trivial pursuit

Once in a while reality can exceed even the most wishy-washy fantasies. A filmmaker from outside Toronto has invented *The Reel to Reel Picture Show*, a game in which players advance across a board to collect different colored film reels by correctly answering movie trivia questions. Longtime trivia buffs Sandy Cherry and Bill Lewewich, stage engineers, Kathy Capoli, an elementary school principal, and Pauline Hankley, an elementary school vice-principal, launched their board game last fall. Since then, it has sold more than 50,000 copies—making it the biggest-selling new game in Canada in 1996.

Now, the group is thinking even bigger. In June, they produced a TV pilot, which evened a TV pilot, which evened a TV pilot, which evened a TV pilot.

place at the Disney-MGM theme park studios in Orlando, Fla., with actors Teri Gay and Bert Reynolds as celebrity guests and Peter Marshall of *Hollywood Squares* time as host. "Disney is very excited about our concept," says 48-year-old Capoli, "and they may use the reel as a park attraction."

The four are also coining to develop the original game—and a number of spinoffs. The 12,000-question *Reel to Reel Picture Show* board game, which retails for about \$40, is already sold in Disney U.S. and French theme parks and will be widely available in major U.S. markets in October. The inventors are also working on a Disney-only version, a family version, as well as a 3,000-question mini-version for travel. "Truly, our game is the fun and games



Nellie (left), McKenna, Chivone, MacLellan, scores were a 'taste affair'

The leaders' Highlands fling

Capie Birtles' intensively researched golf course, the Highlands Links, is so busy this summer that locals are having trouble getting tee times. But Prime Minister Jean Chretien had no such difficulty. Last week, when he and three Atlantic provinces—Frank McKenna of New Brunswick, Russell MacLellan of Nova Scotia and Brian Tobin of Newfoundland arrived at the legendary Bosc, N.S., course, they were quickly buzzed to the first tee. Afterwards, McKenna was vague when asked what they discussed. "mainly issues about Atlantic Canada," said why Prime Minister Jean Chretien, the only non-Atlantic leader in the region, was not invited—only four can play golf at a time! Low class will be the result of a 4-hour round. While Chretien said their scores were "a state secret," a member of the course staff says the squares left their scorecards behind but "didn't even tell them out." In politics, of course, the score is always settled.

She's back in orbit

Her psychic phone service ended in an uneasy last January, but Dayooyan Quebec astrologer Joljo Sorel is now confidently predicting a bright future. Sorel told *Monivie's* that Joljo's Psychic Alliance will be up and running again this week with the backing of Palm Desert, Calif.-based Galaxy Reader Corp. "We're making a big comeback," says Sorel, who found herself mired in controversy when her former producer, a Miami-based subsidiary of Integrated Communications Network Inc., which operated the Alliance's English and French phone services, stopped paying its 1,000 part-time psychics last September. They will have not been paid, but Sorel says they are coming back to work. "I got hurt as much as they did, and they understand that," says Sorel, who consulted the stars about the headliner to research the lines. Why she is doing it was a career question. "This business is so lucrative," she says, "it only took a lump"



Sorel: the right stars for relevance

No, no—New York!

Thanks to its burgeoning film industry, Toronto has stood in for many an American metropolis. With added talent and grit, it has been particularly adept at posing as New York City in feature films and TV movies. But now—at least according to New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani—it seems that Canada's largest city has taken on the Big Apple role once too often. That's because one of the 32 productions currently filming in and around Toronto is about that great New York institution, the Yankees. *The Yawp Story* stars Paul Sorvino as the baseball manager whose brother, Frank, underwent a heart transplant the day before the Yankees played the 1990 World Series against the Atlanta Braves. When Giuliani heard where the real-life-TV movie was being shot, he had one of his deputies get on the phone to find out why a New York-based spokesman for the producer, Showtime, declined to comment on the call. That industry leaders say Giuliani's representative was told the simple truth: that it was cheaper in Toronto than New York. Still, the call and its general denial. Sorvino says *The Yawp Story* will now be filmed in the real New York.

BEST-SELLERS

FICTION

1. *Red in the Face*, see *Officer McQueen* (3)
2. *Secrets*, Lawrence Sanders (2)
3. *Secrets*, see *Officer McQueen* (3)
4. *Cloning Clauses*, Peter H. Dink (1)
5. *Revelations*, Andrew Porter (1)
6. *London*, Robert D. McKenna (1)
7. *The Last of the Great Ones*, Andrew Porter (1)
8. *The Englishman's Boy*, Jay D. Smith (1)
9. *The Englishman's Boy*, Jay D. Smith (1)
10. *Revelations*, Andrew Porter (1)

NONFICTION

1. *The War Who Lived in Rome*, Henry Dink (1)
2. *Revelations*, Andrew Porter (1)
3. *Revelations*, Andrew Porter (1)
4. *Revelations*, Andrew Porter (1)
5. *Revelations*, Andrew Porter (1)
6. *Revelations*, Andrew Porter (1)
7. *Revelations*, Andrew Porter (1)
8. *Revelations*, Andrew Porter (1)
9. *Revelations*, Andrew Porter (1)
10. *Revelations*, Andrew Porter (1)

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Super-sleuthing for kids

Get at a budding scientist or detective in the family? A new book, *Crime Scene Investigation: A New Book to Solve the Case*, by David A. G. Smith, is a book to help kids learn about crime scene investigation. It's a book to help kids learn about crime scene investigation. It's a book to help kids learn about crime scene investigation.

DNA, fingerprints, computer techniques, and more. It's a book to help kids learn about crime scene investigation. It's a book to help kids learn about crime scene investigation.

POP MOVIES

Demi does the navy

After the failure of *The Scorpion Letter* and *Shogun*, Demi Moore has been in the news for a while. She's been in the news for a while. She's been in the news for a while. She's been in the news for a while.

head, gets forward and does one-on-one. She's been in the news for a while. She's been in the news for a while. She's been in the news for a while. She's been in the news for a while.

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Passages



OVERTURNED: The 1996 election of Tompkins president Ron Carey, 62, by a court-appointed election officer in Washington, because of alleged campaign field-ratting abuses. The decision forces a new election involving Carey, who recently led the union in a successful and popular strike against United Parcel Service, and James Hoffa, 56, son and namesake of the labor union leader who was presumed murdered in 1975. In 1991, Carey won the first court-supervised, open election in the union's 64-year history, and was re-elected last December.

CHARGED: With involvement in the contract killing of Vladimir Spits, 60, president of the Russian Hockey Federation, who just weeks before his death in April had complained that organized crime had an influence on a sport in Russia. Robert Chernikov, 60, the former president of Russia's International Hockey League, in Moscow.

DIED: Russian physicist Boris Pleschinskii, 88, who worked on the top-secret Manhattan Project and later headed the Los Alamos National Laboratory for 25 years as it developed nuclear and conventional weapons during the Cold War, at his home in Los Alamos, N.M.

DIED: Sports manager Axel Meyer-Walden, 56, a German lawyer whose clients included tennis star Boris Becker of West Germany, in Munich. Becker, 29, subsequently withdrew from the U.S. Open, which was to have been his final appearance in a Grand Slam tournament.

DIED: Leo Jaffe, 88, whose 1978-1980 tenure as chairman of Columbia Pictures saw the studio rise from near bankruptcy to industry dominance with such critical and box office hits as *Annie Hall*, *Annie*, and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, in his New York City home.

EXPECTING: Australian supermodel Eliza MacPherson, 34, and her Swiss, French boyfriend, *Arpad Buzsan*, 35, their first baby in February.

SET: A May 26 trial date for hearing the second harassment suit launched by Paula Jones against U.S. President Bill Clinton, in a Little Rock, Ark., federal court.

THE BOUCHARD FILE

A psychiatric evaluation paints a troubling portrait of Quebec's controversial premier

COVER

BY ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH

To better understand what makes Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard tick, consider this: on Nov. 18, 1996, media reports said that former prime minister Brian Mulroney was being investigated by the justice department. The department believed—falsely, as it turned out—that Mulroney might have accepted bribes related to the awarding of contracts to purchase aircraft for Air Canada. At that time, it was more than five years since Bouchard and Mulroney had last spoken: their friendship was bitterly severed when Bouchard quit Mulroney's cabinet and renounced federalism in 1990 in a dispute over the doomed Meech Lake constitutional accord. But at 3:30 p.m. that November afternoon, Luc Lavoie, a communications adviser to Mulroney and longtime confidant of both men, received a call on his cellular phone. It was Bouchard, who had just stepped off a flight from Miami and was still at the airport with his wife, Audrey Best. "I just saw this terrible story about Brian," Bouchard told Lavoie. "There is simply no way that it can be true." Over the next 14 months—until Mulroney received a formal apology from the federal government for the allegations—Bouchard called Lavoie regularly for informa-

tion, and publicly defended Mulroney's integrity.

The moral of that story depends on one's perspective. To many Quebecers, who regard their premier as the most credible politician in Canada today, Bouchard's concern for Mulroney serves as proof of his devotion and loyalty, even in difficult times. But friends of Mulroney, many of them still embittered by Bouchard's defection, wonder how someone who professes to care so much could have betrayed his former friend so badly. For many English-Canadians, who regard Bouchard simply as a political perrier out to break up their country, it is another illustration that the only thing consistent about Bouchard is his inconsistency. And those sentiments were bound to be revived by the publication of a controversial psychiatric assessment—delivered to the office of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien in 1996—that analyzes Bouchard's personality (page 15).

The report by Dr. Vivian Rakoff, obtained by Maclean's, portrays Bouchard as a man who "becomes emotionally committed to the task at hand. He is like an actor who dedicates himself to a particular role, but leaves it behind when the curtain falls." Rakoff, one of Canada's best-known professionals in his field, also says that Bouchard's "various

PHOTO: GUY LAWRENCE



disabilities all come disguised as defence of principles," and that he suffers from "a core sense of insecurity" and "great vanity." Balfour's report figures in a new biography of Bouchard, to be released next week, by Ottawa author and journalist Lawrence Martin. The book seems certain to fuel the debate over the enigmatic 58-year-old premier. Even the title invites controversy: *The Ascent—Jean Bouchard and the Politics of Delusion*. Martin, who published a highly praised biography of Chrétien in 1995, spent 20 months researching the book and conducted close to 100 interviews. "What you get from all this is the image of a politician who is both formidable and deeply flawed," Martin said in an interview last week. "Bouchard is driven, for the most part, by a sense of hubris and his bloodlines."

Balfour's findings—and the circumstances behind them—are in themselves controversial. According to Balfour, Bouchard's personality may be partly determined by an "endemic character disorder"—a term, he said Balfour's, he uses to describe "someone who can give great passion to a relationship or cause, and yet not week more on to something else." It can result in highly contradictory behavior, without the individual seeing any contradiction in his actions. A well-regarded politician who has studied in South Africa, England and at Montreal's McGill University, the 69-year-old Balfour wrote his assessment in 1996 at the request of an acquaintance, Toronto Liberal MP John Godfrey. Godfrey then passed on a copy of the report to Chrétien's office, where it was read by senior advisers Edie Goldenberg and Charva Hovak. But Balfour, as he emphasized, has not met Bouchard, and based his findings largely on published speeches and written material about Bouchard's life, including his autobiography. He describes the assessment as "a memorandum I wrote at the request of a friend." And officials in Chrétien's office were quick to emphasize that they neither asked for nor paid for the report—and would not comment on its contents. "This is something that was given to us unofficially, and which the Prime Minister has not himself read," said communications director Peter Donolo.

Within Quebec, early reaction was mixed—largely because the profector's

For many Canadians, the only thing consistent about Bouchard is his inconsistency

French-language newspapers were late in printing stories of the report. But some satirists dismissed the report as a gimmick orchestrated by the federal government—and aimed at discrediting Bouchard. Friends of the premier were predictably critical. Montreal radio host Jean Lapierre, a close Bouchard friend who is well-connected on both the federal and sovereigntist side, called Balfour's assessment "barbaric." In an interview with *Maclean's*, Lapierre argued that all politicians routinely make statements that are later found to be contradictory. "Contradictions," said Lapierre, a longtime federal Liberal party cabinet minister, "are a part of politics because we're looking for perspective changes. I don't see that as a personal trait of Lucien Bouchard."

But the question is important because Bouchard, arguably more than any other Canadian, holds the future of the country in his hands. And the latest controversy comes at a time when the unity issue—which had cooled since the June 2 federal election—plus growing signs of bickering up. At the annual premiers' conference in New Brunswick last month, the other nine premiers agreed to discuss the issue at the special meeting in Alberta this month. But Bouchard, who declined publicly with New Brunswick Premier Frank McKenna over the unity question, remained adamant, and appeared startled by the fact that the other nine premiers appear divided over how to react to the prospect of Quebec secession. One participant in the meetings said it appeared to be the first time Bouchard recognized the deep divisions at the rest of the country as the issue.

But when it comes to Bouchard's relations with English Canada, each side clearly views the other with a mixture of incomprehension, frustration and suspicion. "It makes me crazy to live and read these depictions of Lucien in English Canada as some kind of crazy, even evil traitor," complains Lapierre, a self-



'HE IS LIKE AN ACTOR'

In early 1990, Warren Raloff, former director and psychoanalyst-in-chief at Toronto's Christie Clinic Institute, prepared a psychological portrait of Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard. The report, a copy of which was obtained by *Maclean's*, was done at the request of Toronto Liberal MP John Godfrey, who passed it on to the Prime Minister's Office. Raloff, now professor emeritus at the University of Toronto, has never met Bouchard, and prepared his assessment on the basis of Bouchard's 1992 autobiography and news accounts. Except for

The true loyalty of Bouchard is not to external entities but to himself, to his "ego." The dichotomy imbedded in his mind and by now clichéd joke that René Lévesque is what Quebecers felt they were and that Pierre Trudeau is what they wanted to be is healed in Bouchard. His origins are humble, but his maturity is polished—suspicious. Is it because the progress

of Bouchard's personal history runs in parallel with the changes in Quebec, during the not so quiet incubation of the past 35 or so years? Bouchard started his life in the countryside, the son of a poor truck driver, and he moved from a rural, ecclesiastically dominated society to a high technocratic one, becoming, struggling to define itself in its own terms. His career is certainly of the time, but there is an almost anachronistic flavor to his life projects. We have met him before in history. He could have been one of those young, not anachronistic men who at the beginning of the enlightenment came to Paris to shake the fees of a new age. He is not quite

Jules Boni, the hero of Stendhal's 1830 novel *The Red and the Black*, although the elements of his fictive character's usual adventurism and worldly ambition are certainly there. What were his personal instruments of self-transformation? Certainly the first of these is his considerable intellect. Then his capacity for hard work. More subtly, he has the great gift of investing what he must do, with passion. He becomes almost totally committed to the task at hand. He is like an actor who dedicates himself to a particular role, but leaves it behind when the curtain falls. This is not true, but a necessary truth. The usage at any moment seems absolutely convincing to the outside and, I suspect, subjectively, but it can be sloughed and changed.

It's difficult to overemphasize the importance of language as the vehicle of identity. It is in French and through French that Bouchard leaves Lac St-Jean to become a minister, an ambassador to Paris. His facility with language becomes his passport to the wider world of Frenchness. It is significant that he does not learn English until he is 40. When you learn a language at 40, you are never fully at home in it. And not to have the full use of language in an encounter is to be diminished. English was not another language as Italian or Span-

ish may be, it is that language, as he puts it, of "the gentlemen's club" from which he is forever excluded by virtue of his Frenchness. No, not his Frenchness—his identity as a Québécois.

There is the cumulative argument that when Bouchard wants to not Quebec with its distinct history, but Quebec as France. In his writing, he seems to love Quebec and France, as if he wants to heal the 200 year separation from the mother country. He doesn't appear to be aware that at some level he is rejecting what is modern Quebec in favor of anachronistic, romanticizing and ultimately reactionary dream. Reactionary in the sense that it yearns for a fantasized past in which cultures would be separate and complete, where one could preserve pure lineage, while no origins would not intrude, where the claims of others would not be taken into account.

His political way out of the orphaned status is truly a fantasy in which he will take part in the creation of an organization that will be a compensatory analogue of the British Commonwealth.

Francophonie as an international organization in place, Quebec will be able to survive its isolation in North America because it will have rejected its patriarchy. Perhaps the French word provincial comes the weight of this sense of inferiority. It resonates with the sense of being diminished. No matter how sovereign Quebec is within the context of a larger state, it cannot be its own centre. Francophonie in this sense will be a full linguistic-cultural entity. Because of its pre-eminence it will never again feel culturally isolated or inferior—it will be perpetually a provincial.

What does this translate into when it comes to action? We will be unable to resist the temptation to lead Quebec to glory. He may be more concerned with symbols than facts, and he may stumble when it comes to the business of daily policy and decision making. He is not just a windy dreamer, but he is easily wounded. And though he is devoted to his ambitions and, he believes, to his people, he is only too ready to justify himself under all circumstances, has various loopholes to come disguised as defence of principle.

Since he refers to himself at one point as Achilles, what is his Achilles heel? A core sense of inadequacy, great vanity and one suspects private passions that expose him to indiscreet behavior, which the rural parts of his beloved province—still Catholic, still suspicious of the big city—may not tolerate. But the Achilles metaphor resonates beyond his obsession. He has lost a limb, he speaks poetically, he has a lack of dark hair falling across his face. He has all the attributes of a hero in the most ancient sense. He is powerful, he survives dangers, he embodies the best vision the group has for itself—but then there is always the heel.



A younger Bouchard with his father, Philippe (left), 'waddy wounded'

can't be, we will be unable to resist the temptation to lead Quebec to glory. He may be more concerned with symbols than facts, and he may stumble when it comes to the business of daily policy and decision making. He is not just a windy dreamer, but he is easily wounded. And though he is devoted to his ambitions and, he believes, to his people, he is only too ready to justify himself under all circumstances, has various loopholes to come disguised as defence of principle.

described "devoted infidelities" who sacrificed to one of Bouchard's closest friends. "It does no service to the cause of federalism to talk like that, and it ignores the fact he is a brilliant and decent man." And for many Quebecers, Bouchard's frequent and unacknowledged political conversations—he was a New Democratic Party sympathizer in his youth, a Trudeau-era Liberal, then a sovereigntist follower of René Lévesque before becoming a hard-nosed federalist and, finally, a reform sovereigntist—troughly are the path they have followed themselves. "For people in Quebec, even federalists, his political career appears utterly consistent," says Gilbert Laroche, a once-time press secretary to Mulroney who is now editor-in-chief of Quebec City's *Le Soleil* newspaper. "He is regarded as entirely credible in his actions."

But Bouchard himself is no stranger to overblown rhetoric. At various times, he has referred to other premiers as "monsters" and "kicks," accused pro-federalist business people in Quebec of "sitting on Quebec," and called Charles "a traitor" to his home province. In Bouchard's most regular forum, Quebec's national assembly, opposition Liberals shrug wearily and say they have grown accustomed to such outbursts. "He loses these flights of rhetoric that are in fact great exaggerations," says Liberal MNA Thomas Mulcair, who describes Bouchard's speaking manner as "the scolding intonation of an old parish priest." Adds Mulcair: "One of the things that is most surprising is the rapid crowd-songs—in the course of one 45-minute question period, he can go from attempting to be charming, to being bullying, to screaming after an answer."

The irony is that while Bouchard is regarded in the rest of Canada, as Laroche Martin's words, as "potentially the biggest danger to the country's future in this century," many people in Quebec, led by hard-core separatists, are suspicious of his convictions. Some at the Parti Québécois barely describe him as a "cheerful infidel." In fact, one of the favorite parlor games among members of Quebec's chattering class is to decide what the future political fate of the province would be if it was up to Bouchard alone. "He is definitely not a hardline separatist in the way Jacques Parizeau was."



Bouchard: an amiable analysis of Bouchard's personality

says Laroche. "More to the point, I would call him a sovereignist by default." And Conservative Senator Michael Meehan, a Laval University classmate of Bouchard who has remained in touch with him, says: "Laroc spends as much time talking about the need for association with the rest of Canada as he does about the need for independence." Another who thought that Bouchard lacked the heart and soul of a true separatist was the late Robert Bourassa. In a private three-hour discussion in early 1986, the former Liberal premier spent more than half an hour reflecting on Bouchard's public and private behavior that, he said, illustrated his belief that Bouchard feared

the potential divisive consequences of a narrow Yes win in the 1995 referendum. Among the examples Bourassa gave was that Bouchard cut back on his speaking schedule—and the force of his rhetoric—in the final 30 days of the campaign, when victory seemed within reach.

Bouchard seems to make increasing efforts to parade his sovereignty claims. "This becomes more of a sovereignist act every day," he said on June 1 at the end of the national assembly's spring session. And in a much-publicized remark during a visit to Washington, while he was still leader of the Bloc Québécois, he described himself as a "separatist." Moreover, some friends say that regular exposure to hard-core separatists taking over the PQ early last year has hardened Bouchard's political views. "He's grown into separatism," says



Author Martin: His body shook with rage. He paced the floor.

popular Radio-Québec radio phone-in show. He was supposed to talk about environmental subjects, but callers weren't so interested in those. Instead, they held forth, some of them very angry, some at them using a certain "I" word ("trag"), to denounce the Mosby Lake accord and Quebec's stance on the unfurrow. Bouchard didn't rise to the bait. Martin Green sat listening to the radio in the hall, quite impressed.

The calmness didn't last. When Bouchard got back to the hotel he nearly blew the roof off it. He went "absolutely nuts," recalled Green. "Just off the walls." The tantrum lasted 20 minutes. His body shook with rage. He paced the floor in full force. "The Anger," he cried, as Green remembered it. "They're not even listening! They don't understand anything! What is the matter with these people! This country can't work like that!"

Lapointe. "Now, it's his personal project—and he'll carry it out as he can." And, Lapointe adds, "he's working everyday with PQ members and it has become his political reality."

Perhaps so, but as with any family there are always tensions. When it comes to his adopted party, Bouchard, in the words of Michel C. Auger, political columnist at *Le Journal de Montréal*, "has an easier time governing Quebec than running the PQ." There is a good reason for that: the party Bouchard now leads has historically been social-democratic by nature in its spending policies, and hostile in its promotion of the French language at the expense of other languages. Bouchard, by contrast, is a fiscal conservative who has made balancing the budget his priority. On the other hand, on language issues he appears torn between his personal liberal views and conflicting pressures from within his party. He has spoken in favor of allowing bilingual public signs, but has allowed the return of Quebec's so-called language police, who strictly enforce all aspects of the province's French Language Charter to the detriment of anglophones. On language issues, says Montreal lawyer Tim Minkoff, a longtime English-language activist, "there is a personal sense that Bouchard is trying to be all things to all people—but when push comes



With Parizeau in 1992: questions about his connections

Bouchard has referred to other premiers as 'monsters'

so above, he finds it difficult to renounce the separatists within his party."

Bouchard who often talks home life enough to raise the ire of any self-respecting Quebec nationalist. He has confessed that he speaks English more often than French to his American wife, Audrey, and the couple's two children, Alexandre, 7, and Simon, 5. Although Bouchard did not learn English until age 40—and had never been west of Toronto until age 46—he is now remarkably fluent, due to hours spent reading and practicing in private. His parliamentary secretary is David Poyet, the only anglophone member of the PQ caucus—and, says Poyet, "the premier always insists on speaking English with me." Similarly, Bouchard, a voracious reader, now reads, according to one friend's estimate, "probably more books in English than French." Although his fondness for classics is well known, his taste in English books ranges from political biographies, often of American politicians, to the spy novels of John le Carré and Len Deighton and the pulp thrillers of Robert Ludlum.

That, in turn, translates one of the problems confronting an analysis of his past from afar, as Bouchard has done with Bouchard. Some of the information upon which he bases his conclusions is incomplete or incorrect—which in turn affects the entire thesis. Much of Bouchard's report is based on



Mulroney and Bouchard in 1989, with wife Audrey Bouchard (right): a severed friendship and the strains of juggling family and politics

Temper tantrums at the top

One of his critics has described Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard as "the temper in search of a tantrum." A passage in author Lawrence Martin's forthcoming book on Bouchard, *The Angrier*, makes the point

Most days, when he was Canada's minister of the environment, some of his staff would take a break around 3 o'clock in a quite formal and polite manner, Bouchard would announce: "I think I'll have my tea and biscuits." One afternoon, when he settled back to enjoy his Earl Grey and Arrowroot, he discovered his favorite cookies weren't there. "What?" demanded Bouchard. "There are no biscuits? None of my favorite biscuits?" He was told it was OK, there were others. "You can have another kind of cookie today, Minister." Bouchard didn't want another kind. His temper at a fever pitch, he was berating the staff as incompetents. How could they not have his cookies ready?

Some time after the Arrowroot Affair, Bouchard travelled to Vancouver on business. On his agenda was an appearance on the

the premonition that Bouchard is obsessed with the language of French and Quebec's historic links with France—to the exclusion of all else. But Bouchard's willingness to live much of his life in English belies that—to the point that he was enticed in the Quebec media last week for his habit of spending two months every summer in California with his in-laws. And his passion for Quebec politics is matched by a deep interest in the nuances of the American political system. As one friend, a political strategist with extensive international experience, says of Bouchard: "I can think of no one—and I include Americans in this—who knows more about past and present political life in the United States."

Almost from the day he entered elected politics in a 1988 by-election and became a Conservative minister, Bouchard has talked about leaving public life. He thought long and hard about accepting for leadership of the PQ and the premier's job in early 2005—though it wasn't only great to him—and still makes it clear that he is not happy in the post. Such complaints are politically pragmatic: the implicit threat of resignation is a useful tool for a party leader whose co-operators know they need him, but do not always agree with him. But there is no doubt that Bouchard is sincere when he talks about the strain on his family life and the difficulties of long days away from his children.

Audrey Best Bouchard, meanwhile, has never tried to hide her discomfort with public life—and her wish that her husband would leave it. In addition, family friends say that while she is not hostile to the sovereignty movement, she simply does not understand the passion behind it. Bouchard, in fact, confessed as much to a friend in a frank discussion in Quebec City over dinner about a year ago. "The problem," he said, "is not only that Audrey does not like politics—in particular, she does not like my politics."

And there is the often-forgotten physical hardship of functioning as a president: leg, following his amputation and close brush with death during a bout of necrotizing myositis—or so-called flesh-eating disease—in 1994. Although Bouchard's leg is barely perceptible, and he has responded remarkably well to treatment, medical experts say that walking with an artificial leg consumes an enormous amount of energy. Leg amputees have to retrain, to adjust, how to walk. And because of the strain of his job, which often includes 12-hour days at the office, Bouchard has complained to friends that he seldom gets the regular exercise that his therapists insist is necessary.

Another continuing source of strain is the first relationship with Mulroney, his friend of more than three decades. The former prime minister was so angry at Bouchard's decision that friends have said he told his wife, Mido, that if Bouchard were to come to his funeral, she should order him out of the church. Bouchard, in a previous interview with *Maclean's*, recounted how he had been in a Montreal delicatessen after the break when Mulroney walked in. The two men sat at opposite ends of the restaurant, ignoring each other. As prime minister, Mulroney would not use Bouchard's name, even when asked direct questions about him; Bouchard, in turn, referred only to "the prime minister."

They still do not speak, but there has been a thawing. Mulroney let it be known, through intermediaries, that he appreciated Bouchard's support during the Airbus affair. In turn, the Mulroneys sent a get well message to Bouchard when he became ill in late 1994, and he sent back a message of appreciation. In recent years, he has been reaching out to old, mutual friends from university days, such as Mulroney and Liberal Senator Pierre de Lauro-Meighen, who was invited to Bouchard's inauguration as premier, but could not attend, says. "It seems very clear to me that he would be happy if there could be a reconciliation."

That possibility remains in the air—as does his political future. Some pegs are pretty low that Bouchard will leave politics before another referendum. For that to even happen, he would have to fight and win a provincial election, which must take place by the fall of 2009. And no sovereigntist wants another referendum unless the Yes side has enjoyed a clear and sustained lead in the polls. "We must be very, very sure of our circumstances when we call such a vote," says the PQ's David Payne, "and we must be very sure not to try our hands when we are going to do so." That could mean that a referendum, if it ever, might not take place until the year 2014, by which time Bouchard would be 60 years old.

There is another date, well before that, that seems likely to attract Bouchard's interest—and create some anguish. The fall of 1998 will mark the 35th anniversary of the graduation of Bouchard's law class. Some of the members, along with Bouchard, Mulroney, Meighen and de Lauro, were businessmen Peter White, Senator Michel Gagné and prominent Montreal lawyers Michel Roy and Jean Babin. The last reunion was in 1983, when both Bouchard and Mulroney attended. Already, some alumni are beginning to plan another reunion—and thinking, specifically, of its implications for Bouchard and Mulroney. "It would be hard to imagine either one missing it," says a friend of both men. "And if they both show up—well, I wouldn't imagine them talking for three hours straight—but they might say hello, and finally break the ice."

Would either man want to revisit the painful part of their past? In his autobiography, *On the Record*, Bouchard is concluding his deal with his break with Mulroney, and his "drama that just as one door closed on part of my past one evening in May, 1990, so another and better door will soon be opening for the future of my nation." After the triumph and tragedy, confusion and controversy of Bouchard's recent years in politics, questions about his true intentions run as deep as ever. And cracks on both sides of the unity debate still seem to wander if those doors to his past are really closed—and which nation he really means.

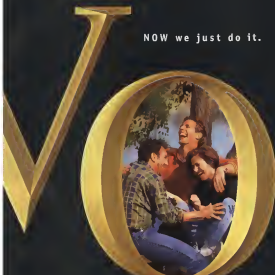
With ASSHLEY BRANFORD in Montreal



Bouchard before leaving Ottawa: the Opposition leader as sovereigntist

BACK THEN we talked about all we would do,

NOW we just do it.



Like friendship, crafted with care.





Canada

Fighting for the fish

BY RAE CORSELI

Once and perhaps twice this week, between 11:30 p.m. and midnight, Bill Broderick, his son and his brother will board their fishing boat and sail into the blackness of the North Atlantic. By 6 a.m. and the dawn's early light, they will be 65 km out. There, the last rising and falling in the ocean swell, they will reach aboard and empty 50 oak traps loaded at intervals to a line more than a kilometre long. Twenty-four hours later, the catch from the sea bottom harvested and the line replaced, the 11 m Cape Hayward and her bone-weary crew will return to the eastern Newfoundland fishing village of St. Brigid's. To the Brodericks and millions of other fishermen from Spain to Slovenia, the sea is an inexhaustible and centuries-old lure. But to a small chunk of the world's marine scientists, it is an abused and plundered resource caught up in a deep and worsening crisis.

In one of the most ambitious attempts ever undertaken to identify the threats to the oceans and offer solutions, more than 2,000 experts from around the world will gather in St. John's next week. The so-called Summit of the Sea from Sept. 1 to 6, together with eight subsidiary conferences, will explore questions related to maritime law, climate change, pollution and marine technology. But the principal preoccupation will be the global perils facing fish populations as the

result of overfishing, excessive and destructive fishing. If that challenge is not met, says Chris Blackwood of St. John's, the chairman of the conference board of trustees, "the price we will pay is that in the not distant future we will simply not have a sustainable resource at all."

That resource is already in deep trouble. In 1983, Canada changed a constitution on East Coast salmon fishing to give the remaining stocks a chance to recover, and closed the cod fishery in late 1989. But the picture elsewhere is even more sobering. In the United States, says the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organization, fisheries for Atlantic haddock, cod and herring, and Pacific salmon have "seriously collapsed." In a recently published UN review, the FAO says that the world's fishing fleet increased between 1970 and 1990 at twice the rate of the increase in the volume of fish caught. Nearly half the world's fish stocks, adds the FAO, are being "heavily exploited."

The FAO's assessment finds support among those planning to attend the summit. But special overriding, says Sylvia Earle, the chairwoman of an ocean exploration and research team in Oakland, Calif., is not the only factor. "We continue to succumb the use of gear that is horribly destructive and indiscriminate," she says. "Some of us in the ocean floor and bottom are in the land." That ecology is difficult to grasp for those who live far from the sea, she says. "But we can see the consequences of strip-mining and clear-cutting our

forests and even though that doesn't inhibit us, at least there are people who say, 'Stop, this is terrible and must stop!'"

The consensus would appear to be justified. The United Nations says there are now in use around the globe larger enough to hold 12 jumbo jets and capable of catching 200,000 lb of fish at a time. The salmon fishing boats called seiners used by Pacific coast fishermen can vacuum the ocean up to 60,000 lb an hour. "Right, but what's the use of that?" says Earle. "We're being killing whole flocks of golden geese." And, she adds, killing without profit. "Worldwide, the gross fish bring on the market is \$70 billion (U.S.), but because of \$56 billion in government fishery subsidies, they really cost the consumers \$124 billion." As for the debilitated system beneath the sea, Earle says, "We have been accelerating certain kinds of change and turning things in directions that we really have no control. We can never put it back the way it was." Adds Earle, a marine biologist and a consultant to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington: "To those who say why should I care about the ocean, I say, well, just wipe it out and what have you got? You've got a place that probably would look

like the European seas were simply organised pillage—and pillage is not too strong a word." As for Newfoundland, he says, "the collapse of the fishery is such a devastating thing." Forty thousand people, equally divided between fishermen and fishplant workers, were put out of work and survive "on [federal and provincial] programs that pay you not to fish."

However, says May, "we had really built up over time a standing critical that was going to crash of its own weight, otherwise, because there were far too many people trying to make a living from a limited resource." Some studies, he said, suggested that there were twice as many as could be supported, "but it may have been three times as many." Because literally thousands of people became economically redundant, May says, "means that the communities in which they lived do have a base way more, which means they become ghost towns and dry up and the way. Then, an economy, a culture, a history all disappear."

Blackwood, a food scientist and former federal deputy fisheries minister, echoes May's sentiments. The "catastrophe" that overtook the northwest Atlantic fishery, he says, "could happen in other parts

A summit in St. John's will study the rape of the oceans

of the world because there are more of them than are not under severe attack by being over-fished." Blackwood believes that management and enforcement can reverse the fishery. What worries him, he says, is that once the fishery has been restored, "political pressure will again lead to the harvesting of too many fishermen and too many fish plants." The an-

swer? "Take politics out of the equation and create some independent body to make those decisions."

In this debate, 47-year-old Bill Broderick has an enormous stake because the sea is not only a livelihood for him, his son Warren, 22, and brother Daniel, 32, it is their life as well—and certainly the only and other creature, such as shrimp and scallop, are thriving. His gross income, perhaps \$30,000 a year, but less with less than half that after sharing with the others and paying the cost of fuel, bait and numerous fees. Since the regulations were placed on salmon and cod, Broderick says, "we really haven't talked about the communities where we're based up the basins and shipped the people off. It's phenomenal the number of people who are crossing the Gulf [of St. Lawrence] and not returning. If fishing is not in anybody's blood any more, well then it's over."

But it has stayed in the Broderick blood. "My father, who had grown up and been forced into the fish when he was one year of age to take a cut of sea and now, talked about it as if it was a bad life and we should go get education and get out of here. Broderick says, "Well, we did that. They went off to school and education, but something kept pulling us back. I don't know what it is but when I look at this life, he had an opportunity to change, too, but he didn't. My kids are out there now with me and I'll be out there as long as there's a bit of breath in me." Which is why, between 11:30 p.m. and midnight, two or three days next week and the week after and the week after that—long after the summit has come and passed—the Cape Hayward will sail into the darkness of the North Atlantic and

Landing cod at Peely Harbour, Nfld., in 1983. May (above): 'juggles'



Schoolyard battles

Newfoundland tackles educational reform

Pauline Hawco is worried. Wielding control of Newfoundland's schools from the province's churches, she says, will inevitably contribute to "ward drags." So, come Sept. 3, Hawco, who lives in the small coastal community of Bonaville, about 130 kms west of St. John's, intends to vote No in the provincewide referendum on whether to secularize a school system with religious roots dating back to the 1770s. Furthermore, the Roman Catholic mother of three does not believe Premier Brian Tobin can keep his promise that parents will still have the right to send school-bus kids for separate denominational courses after a Yes victory. "I believe we'll end up with a public system, with no religion," Hawco says. "We have a lot to be thankful for in Newfoundland—the low crime rate can be attributed to the morals and values taught in school."

For close to 300 years, Newfoundland's education system has been church administered. But in 1995, then Premier Clyde Wells's Liberal government embarked on an ambitious program of educational reform. Part of it is a large measure by the government's majority drive, the program strives to save 100 million annually by cutting the number of school boards and closing schools. But the proposed reforms would also have significantly decreased the role of churches in the school system. An initial referendum, held in September, 1995, proved inconclusive in the eyes of many. With voter turnout a mere 34.9 per cent—and with the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches spearheading opposition to the government's proposals—only 54 per cent cast their ballots in favor of reform.

Now, on Sept. 3, comes Round 2, sponsored by Premier Brian Tobin, with one clear objective: establishing a totally secularized school system.

The disagreement is between his constituents. When Newfoundland joined Confederation in 1949, the province received a constitutional guarantee that its schools would continue to be church-run. But eight months after its accession victory in the first referendum, the provincial government started to Ottawa for a constitutional amendment. The House of Commons complied last Decem-

ber, giving the provincial government control over education while still guaranteeing denominational schools where the numbers warranted them. That same month, Tobin's government passed its school-reform legislation, last spring. Newfoundland's 19 school districts announced that 80 schools, 75 per cent of them Catholic, the rest Protestant,



O'Brien: a referendum joined at ending the churches' role in the province's school system

costal, would either close or be designated interdenominational.

But dissent continued to simmer. Last May, a group of Catholic and Protestant parents backed by their respective churches, launched a court challenge to the reforms, arguing that their rights had been violated because some denominational schools had been unfairly closed. In July, Newfoundland Supreme Court Judge Leo Barry brought the government's reforms to a halt, siding with the parents and granting an injunction against the restructuring program. Among other things, Barry ruled that a multi-part program to convert parents on their denominational preferences was unfair because anyone who did not respond was automatically registered as interdenominational.

Tobin responded by announcing the second referendum. He acknowledged that the question put to Newfoundlanders in 1995

had been vague. (It asked only whether Term 17—the religious education clause in Newfoundland's Terms of Union with Canada—should be revised "in the manner proposed by the government.") This time, he declared, the question would be clear. "There's no confusion," Tobin declared. "It means the elimination of the right of the churches to be involved in the governance and administration of the school system." He has also pledged to petition Ottawa for a second constitutional amendment to eliminate denominational schools entirely. Instead, he proposes a single school system with a course on world religions—although parents could still ask that their religion be taught instead. But while Tobin insists his planned amendment is solid, his critics wonder whether the premier could be leaving

the door open for future court challenges. So far, in spite of the voters, the referendum has lacked the intensity of the first. Two weeks before the vote, Tobin's government still had not launched any large-scale campaign, opting instead for a few newspaper ads and occasional radio and television spots. Churches for the No side have also been relatively quiet. Not wanting to know anything to do with, a group of parents and concerned citizens calling the mothers' education first has taken up the government's cause by placing banners and distributing literature to rally support for the Yes side.

"The system obviously isn't working," says Connaught O'Brien, the group's president. "Let's get on with children's education." With the new school year looming, still something hangs true for both sides in the debate.

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CANADA

Backlash in Ontario

Teachers fire the latest salvo against the Conservatives

It was an all-too-typical week in the embattled life of Ontario's Conservative government. On the same day that more than 100 disruptive labor protesters were ejected from the provincial legislature, 1,680 high-school teachers on the northern edge of Metropolitan Toronto went on strike. Although the teachers and the York Region Board of Education typically blamed each other for the plight of their 25,000 students, both sides, unexpectedly, could still agree on a principal cause of their problem: Premier Mike Harris, Lynn Johnston, president of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, told, says that the board increasing students is to increasingly larger classes to save money. "But the Conservatives proposed that the classroom—and the quality of education—would be protected from budget cuts," he argues. Board vice-chair Karen Barker counters that the size of classes must increase—because the board's provincial grants have dropped \$28 million over the last two years. When asked about the premier's view, she retorts: "Our newspapers have been full lately about how."

Such bitter wars with words have become common in once-dominant Ontario. Barely two years into their mandate, the Conservatives are in the midst of a full-scale assault on the province's institutions. They are re-

sisting during school boards, hospitals and municipalities. They are suspending the right to strike of city, hospital and teachers unions during their first contract negotiations with their new entities—producing threats of a public sector general strike. In a series of confusing and often contradictory announcements, they are shuffling provincial and municipal responsibilities for education and many social services, raising widespread fears that property taxes will skyrocket. "My sense is that people want some stability," says veteran political strategist John Leachman, a longtime Tory supporter. "The government has to stop advocating on all these fronts."

The slower pace of the proposed changes—and the fury it has provoked—have splintered Tory supporters and disaffected members of the cabinet. Some maintain that the government should stay its course. "This is not the time to flinch," maintains former Tory campaign chairman Tom Long, who remains a trusted Harris adviser. "Previous governments have been paralyzed by well-orchestrated special-interest pressure groups." Others suggest that the Tories should moderate the pace of their changes. "I don't think the government should back off its own principles, but it might be more creative about how it implements its policies," notes veteran Tory strategist Hugh

Johnson (left), Harris, an avowed Tory supporter.

Segal. "That has a lot to do with the ability to compromise."

So far, the damage to Tory popularity has been heavy—although few believe it is permanent. Last month, Environics Research Group Ltd. reported that Tory support had fallen to 33 per cent among decided voters, compared with 45 per cent for the Liberals and 17 per cent for the NDP. "They have done a lot of things in a lot of areas and that scares a lot of people," notes pollster Donna Denko. "But I am surprised their support is not down to the 30s—which tells me they have a reasonable chance of winning the next election."

In a poll released this week, Angus Reid Group Inc. reported that the Tories have the support of 55 per cent of decided voters—compared with 42 per cent for the Liberals and 16 per cent for the NDP. But senior vice president John Wright points out that fully 61 per cent of the respondents maintain that the Conservatives have put Ontario "on the right track." To Wright, that indicates that many voters "like where they are going but they don't like how they are getting there; they don't like confrontation."

The Tories' difficulty is that the protests against their recent wave of proposals have barely begun. Their most disruptive problem is their approach to health care: senior party officials privately admit that the government bungled when it announced hospital closures without a adequate assurances that health care would not suffer. Over the next two years, 25 out of 210 hospitals will close, including 11 of 46 Toronto institutions—and many worry that that medical help will not be available when they need it.

More trouble lurks ahead—with the November municipal elections. Last week, the Tories tabled legislation to remove half the education property tax from municipal residential tax bills on Jan. 1, 1996—because the province will pick up that estimated \$2.5-billion tax. In return, the municipalities will become fully responsible for social housing, local public health services and institution costs. Those new responsibilities coincide with provincial plans to cut \$487 million from municipal programs. Conflicting figures, most of them alarmist, abound about how such changes will increase each city's bills, providing a handy target for angry municipal councilors in the upcoming election. As Tory MP Ed Marchand told *Montreal's* "Tribune" ready to start the anti-Conservative

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CANADA

paign to get re-elected. The municipalities have to count out even from these changes. If municipal taxes rise, I am afraid that all the good things we have done will fall by the wayside in the next provincial election."

In retrospect, it is difficult to see how the Tories' election platform—the Common Sense Revolution—led to such breathtaking change. That platform promised weaker unions, lower taxes and less government. And although it talked about the elimination of waste and duplication, it did not mention massive institutional change. Quebec's University economist Tom Courchesne, who is completing an in-depth study on the social, fiscal and federal evolution of the province, maintains that the changes have been profound. In effect, once the Conservatives completed their first revolution, they launched another to change municipalities and institutions. "They are having many more problems with their second revolution because it caught people out of the blue. It wasn't laid out," he says. "But the consequence of these revolutions is that the old Ontario, fiscally and internally, is gone."

Many Tory strategists agree that they must lower the temperature in this new Ontario if they want to win re-election. They have bolstered their case by pointing out that more student, right-wing parties may be making inroads in the province. The Reform party, for one, failed to make any inroads in the last federal election. In response, Harris' office is privately seeking compromise on legislation to suspend the right to strike, scuttling out law-key leaders to the teachers unions suggesting that salaries might be permitted during certain months and among certain groups such as those who do not teach grades 12 and 13. The government also will unveil detailed plans this fall to retrain hospital workers for community care—and to boost home care. Tory strategists reason that if they can end their wars by early next year, voters will focus on their good economic news: the province's economy is healthy—and the average private sector forecast for real provincial growth in 1998 is 3.8 per cent. By 1999 the Tories will also have cut the income tax rate by 26 per cent.

Pence cannot count on enough for strident teacher Adèle Bannell, who was fired at Dr. John Dutton Secondary School in York Region. Last week, the 37-year-old, who has spent 27 years with the board, said he was damaged to watch the rejection of labor protests from the legislature on television. "The premier should talk with the labor leaders," he argued. "They should not have to shout. That is not a healthy way to deal with differences." In Ontario, it is almost certain that the day will rise before it falls.

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A man of passion and ideas

BY JAMES STEWART

Since Léon Dion died last Wednesday in the pool at his home in the Quebec City suburb of Sillery, many who knew this vigorous and intellectual man of ideas, and the many more who knew of him, have drawn a parallel between his own life and the life of modern Quebec itself.

The parallel is by no means forced or spurious. By the time of his accidental drowning at the age of 74, Dion was no longer a driv-

Léon Dion had an allegiance to Quebec, his homeland, and Canada, his country



Father and son in 1986: a "knife at the throat" strategy when Michel Charbonneau was in power.

ing force behind Quebec's social, linguistic and political movement. But for more than 40 years, he focused his considerable abilities on powers on the same big questions that preoccupied Canada and the entity of Quebec: what kind of country should this be and how should Quebec fit into it? His own answers, the Quebec's, were loud, insistent, elaborately studied but variable, often contradictory and ultimately ambiguous. They took root in his native province, but fell on stony ground in the rest of Canada. That did not stop him.

From his chair as head of Laval University's political science department, and as co-director of the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, Dion poured out his views publicly in books, articles and lectures, and privately to prime ministers, premiers, ministers and anyone who asked. Dion, chief intellectual adviser of Quebec's Quiet Revolution, an enlightened and enlightening teacher who took on the rest of the world outside the academy, called himself a federalist to the end. But like so many Quebecers, he was torn between Quebec and Canada, indecisive, irresolute, never giving an unconditional yes or no, a Hamlet forever posing the existential question: Is the 1980 Quebec referendum on sovereignty/association. No in the referendum on the Charlottetown constitutional accord. No in the 1995 Quebec referendum on sovereignty.

Dion himself acknowledged that he was "a bit uprooted up at times," but his lifelong posture was consistent: that Canada is possible, and that Quebec is better off inside than outside. That is also the basic position of his son, Stéphane, who is Canada's minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. But Stéphane is not the loose fender that his father was. The elder Dion favored asymmetrical federalism, with a deeply reformed constitution ceding powers to the provinces, recognizing the distinctiveness of Quebec, and restoring

the concept that Canada means citizens living together in a loose union. That concept, basically adopted by the Quebec Liberal Party, and in some degree by federal political parties and some governments, in fact seems no closer to achievement now than it did in the 1960s, when the federal Liberalism-Dion Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism, of which Léon Dion was a research director, failed to reach agreement on the key issue of Quebec's place in a renewed federation.

Dion, like many Quebecers, was attracted by the 1982 constitutional agreement, which Prime Minister Trudeau and the provincial premiers, over the objections of the Quebec national assembly, put into the Constitution and adopted a charter of rights that restricted the powers of the federal and provincial legislatures. He became a powerful influence on Quebec Liberal leaders, Claude Ryan and later Robert Bourassa, advocating significant constitutional reform with special status for Quebec.

Dion was not and could not have been Michel Charbonneau's ally. But when it boiled, he offered his infamous "knife at the throat" strategy: "English Canada will only yield—and even this is not assured—if there is a knife at its throat." The Bourassa government and the Quebec Liberals actually tried that, threatening a referendum on sovereignty unless English Canada came up with a satisfactory reform. The result was the sluggish Charbonneau accord, muddled and unimpressive. By that time, Dion was describing himself as a "fired federalist." Sent retired at his home in Sillery where he and his wife, Denise, had raised five children, he said he felt increasingly isolated in his dual allegiance to Quebec, his homeland, and Canada, his country. The isolation of the man and his ideas was real. The new PQ government, naturally, was not much interested in consulting anyone but confirmed separatists. The federal government and the rest of Canada were not much interested in recovering constitutional debate or talking of special status.

So Léon Dion never saw the Canada he worked towards all his life. Instead, he saw a hardening of attitudes in English Canada and his own Quebec society coalescing into a bitter dualism of federalists and secessionists. "It would be a lot easier for me to say I'm an independentist," he said a few years ago. "But I'm not, and since I can't say I'm for federalism so it is, I have to find a new formula." Death found him before he discovered the formula. But as long as there are people around willing to look as hard as Léon Dion did, the formula may yet be discovered.

The CBC's video of Léon Dion in 1986 is available on video. It can be seen at http://www.cbc.ca/leon_dion/



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Canada NOTES

GYPSY FLOOD

Toronto's family shelters were struggling to cope with a flood of Gypsy refugee claimants from the Czech Republic. About 150 Gypsy families have arrived at Pearson International Airport over the past two weeks after a Czech television documentary suggested refugee status and support are easily obtainable in Canada. Some new arrivals claimed to have been harassed by Canadian immigration officials—a departmental alert stated about 47 per cent of adult Gypsy refugee claimants entering Canada have criminal records.

PUMP PRICES SURGE

Rapidly rising gasoline prices across Central Canada sparked angry complaints from drivers and consumer organizations. In Toronto, which saw the steepest increase, prices rose as much as 20 per cent last week alone. Spokesmen for the petroleum industry blamed short-term supply problems caused by the temporary shutdowns of several American refineries.

THE MEDICARE DEBATE

Delegates to the Canadian Medical Association's annual meeting in Victoria called for greater government spending on health rather than the establishment of a so-called two-tier system in which private clinics directly charge patients for treatment. Federal Health Minister Allan Rock, meanwhile, promised to further budget cuts for health care.

ATOMIC HIGH

Premier Mike Harris said Ontario Hydro should consider mandatory drug testing after a leaked report drew attention to drug and alcohol use at the Pickering nuclear power station. The peer evaluation report said employees were often found with empty beer bottles and bags as well as syringes were found in trash of the plant, where radioactive materials are kept. Home-made health-care pipes and analgesics were also found.

MAKING AMENDS

The United Church of Canada expressed its regret to relatives over the abuse, both physical and sexual, they endured at church-run residential schools—but stopped short of a full apology. The statement came as B.C. activists pressed to sue the church and the federal government for their alleged abuse.

'He has no concept of reality'

The proceedings in Surrey, B.C., were incredibly short. After only 3½ days of testimony and less than 15 minutes of jury deliberation, a mental killer Clifford Robert Olson's bid for clemency under the so-called faint-basis clause was denied. Olson's hearing in the B.C. Supreme Court

terminated Olson about his claims before he is returned to prison near Montreal.

Last week, while sitting as his own lawyer, Olson subjected the courtroom audience to frequent misapprehensions, twisted logic, and sometimes absurd statements. In his summation to the jury, he pleaded "Ladies and gentlemen, you have seen me before you. Do I look like a killing man?" The jurors remained composed, but the victim's family members broke out in agonious laughter, punctuated with a very loud "Yeah!" And forensic psychiatrist Dr. Stanley Scantura, testifying as a Crown witness, told the court that Olson is "the most insane sexual deviant, the most disturbed, most pathological personality I have ever encountered."



Olson: a free bird from the jury

he was slain as Olson is this sad little person who lies on the wall he has no concept of reality."

Olson was sentenced to life in prison in 1982. But under Section 745 of the Criminal Code—the faint-basis clause—he was eligible to apply for parole after serving 15 years. (The federal Liberal government amended the section last January to exclude serial killers, but the amendment was not retroactive.) The cornerstone of Olson's plea for release was that he could be housed in 140 nurseries in Canada and the United States—an assertion Crown lawyer Joe Blewett discounted. Olson's father had never been granted parole until 2006—and even then it was virtually certain that he will remain incarcerated. The RCMP in Vancouver, meanwhile, said that, as a precaution, they would increase

back to three days before his birthday when it was called to identify her clothes," Keady said outside the courtroom. "There was one in his hand, but I recognized the red Adidas T-shirt that she borrowed from me." After the jury decided Olson's fate, the courtroom erupted in a frenzy. Some jurors cheered, some stood and yelled. And after the verdict was read, Justice Richard Law of the B.C. Supreme Court said, "We've all had enough of this nasty business—we'll adjourn."

Money for Milgaard

Saskatchewan Justice Minister John Nixon announced that his province will instead only pay \$250,000 in compensation to 49-year-old David Milgaard, who spent almost 23 years in jail for a murder he did not commit. The payment is the first installment of a settlement that some legal experts say could eventually total several million dollars. A 1976 analysis done last July in Britain exonerated Milgaard of the 1969 murder and rage of warring wife Gail

Milgar in Saskatoon. Larry Fisher, a sexual racist who spent 23 years in prison for a string of sexual attacks between October, 1966, and February, 1978, in Saskatoon and Montreal, has since been arrested and charged with Miller's death. Earlier last week, Nixon also announced that retired chief justice Alan Gold of the Quebec Superior Court had been named to negotiate Milgaard's compensation package. As well, Saskatchewan will hold a public inquiry into the police investigations of Miller's death and Milgaard's subsequent conviction.

Paradise lost

A volcano ravages a Caribbean isle



BY NOMI MORRIS

As she sits on the deck of a Canadian tourist's vacation home, Montserrat native Winifred Saunders has been gazing the ruins out at her maid. On June 25, she watched a billowing sea of steam, pines and rock rise into the air before it swept down a mountainside, obliterating the villages of her childhood within seven minutes—taking several of her former neighbors with it. Terrible as it was, the scene was breathtakingly beautiful. "It's a huge crash-son-of-a-gun opening up," she recalls. There was also an eerie quiet as the Suddre Hills volcano entered its devastating power on the tiny Caribbean isle. "No one heard it coming," Saunders says. "Most of the people who died lived in the valley. They never had a chance."

The bodies of the 75 victims—including an infant girl—cannot be retrieved from beneath a hardening shroud of hot ash. Several villages are gone, and a third of the 706-square-kilometer British colony is covered in gravelly dust. Last week, as scientists warned that a cataclysmic eruption could come at any time—or at least all—Britain began a voluntary evacuation among the island's 4,000 or so remaining residents. But many Montserratians were angry about resettlement terms, and many others were determined to stay, driven by a tradition of devotion to their island. Days before the June 25 explosion, Winifred Saunders' aunt tried to get her neighbor, Victor Saxon, to leave their village of Fornia for a safer area. Victor, an ex-RAF pilot, declined after an angry husband, would have gone off it. "I'm not going into a shelter," she replied. "I'm staying right here. If I die, it's God's will."

The smoldering volcano ash entrapped the couple in their house. That day was turning point for what used to be a lush Shangri-La in the northeast Caribbean. Many who had hoped to wait out the eruptions gave up. "To see people you know killed, that's what's up."

said Rose Tonger, 43, who has taken refuge with her sister in Scarborough, Ont., because the volcano dust was aggravating her nine-year-old son's asthma. "You don't think it can happen to you." The worst did happen to 73-year-old Berjil Farnell, mother of Phyllis Grant, a nurse at Scarborough General Hospital who immigrated to Canada 25 years ago. Grant, 46, called her mother to arrange for her to fly to Toronto in early July. But the volcano took her life on June 25. "My mother didn't want to leave her family and friends," Grant told *Montserrat* sadly. Now her sister has come, one of more than 30 Montserratians who are staying with family in Canada, most in the Toronto area. A local association is lobbying the government to allow the widows to work and put their children in school.

Back on Montserrat, demonstrations broke out as authorities again reduced the size of the so-called safe zone in the north where the 4,000 remaining residents have crowded in. There were 11,000 people on the island in 1986, when the volcano began to smolder and again for the first time since British colonizers arrived in 1632. After Britain's Royal Navy arrived only last week to transport those who wanted to move to neighboring islands, the HMS Liverpool waited for days with no ashfall. Hundreds of people protested their deteriorating living conditions and what many considered a miserly resettlement package of \$5,500 per person, finally approved by London. But Montserrat's Chief Minister, Bernard Gibson, was forced to resign after only nine months in office. His ministers no longer trust him to lead them out of the crisis. "They thought I am not as strong enough to deal with the British government," Gibson said. "And they don't like the manner in which I do it."

He was replaced by local lawyer and legislator David Braddish, who has a tough task ahead. The former capital, Plymouth, was destroyed by the volcano earlier this month, and as last week the temporary capital Salem is still buried in the evening. The economy

Destroyed capital
Plymouth residents
combating dust frustration
and uncertainty



has nearly ground to a halt. Even the area's rare fish are threatened, with 50 per cent of the island's prairie ponds wiped out. The latest earthquake follows a major rebuilding effort earlier in the decade, after the island drew hit by Hurricane Hugo in 1989. Now, as then, many Montserratians say they want to stay and rebuild, or to return as soon as possible. Many have built of those displaced have gone only as far as nearby Antigua and St. Kitts. Another 400 signed up for the army evacuation that began last weekend. About half the remaining residents are expected to leave soon, some later than London will not pay their airfare to Britain or grant them citizenship.

Many Montserratians say they do not know who to blame most—the British, whose response seemed too little too late, or their own leaders, who many say failed to push hard enough for compensation and new housing. "There has been an ineptness and lack of action and vision by both governments, up and down," said a local entrepreneur who asked for anonymity. "I understand that people are disgruntled, but we have acted very quickly and reasonably," said Britain's International Development Secretary Clare Short. There are plans to build a new port, airport, and tourist area in the north. But Montserrat newspaper editor Bernice Bunch says help from the British money has yet arrived.

Many homeowners in the north have taken in families from the devastated south and east. Still, 1,500 people are crisscrossed onto makeshift lodgings. "Some have been living in shelters for 18 months. They thought they were coming for a few weeks," said Janet Wilkins of London, Ont., who flew to Montserrat with medications, foodstuffs and other supplies. Wilkins's sister, Agnes Lewis, lives permanently in Montserrat. "Since the volcano started, I have moved eight times," she says. "But I will be the last one to leave Montserrat's beautiful shores."

That sentiment is heard often, especially from those whose homes are still standing or who have a major investment that they hope to recoup. Detroit native Susan Golden Miller and her husband used to run a farming business taking about 30

cruise ship passengers a day on mountain-bike tours of the island. "It was 70 per cent downhill and they were back in time for lunch on the ship," said Golden Miller. But as cruise ships have come since last April and the island's two hotels have closed. The Royal Bank of Canada—owner of two banks on the island—has seen a staff serving the public from a private home, having lost 80 per cent of its property and 18 of its employees on Montserrat. "We have decided to stay," said Nigel Napier-Andrews, spokesman for Caribbean operations. "Of course, we aren't lending any money right now."

Some money will come from a fundraising concert next month at London's Royal Albert Hall, organized by former Beatles producer George Martin and featuring rock stars Sting and Elton John, who had recorded at Montserrat's now-burned air studio on the island. Meanwhile, the hundreds of Montserrat holidaymakers to the radio for daily updates on the volcano and its pyroclastic flow, the silent, gray, 1,000° C chemical ash mineral cocktail that moves at 120 km/h, faster than the fiery red lava seen on Hawaiian volcanoes. Montserrat's Golden Miller recalls the chomka of panic: that hit her on the head a few weeks ago. "It's that porous rock you ball your feet with."

The dome at Soufriere Hills, a crust of lava that looms over the mountainous, is already 500 m high. A storm five per cent of 6 broke off on June 25, the worst eruption to date. Scientists measure the volcano's energy hecp, but admit they have never seen one like it before. It may blow its top with apocalyptic intensity, altering along for another few years, or simply go back to sleep.

Winifred Saunders lives like a survivor. She cannot even visit the graves of her father and grandfather. British Methodist Church and the mother were buried. "If I leave Montserrat now it will be a betrayal," she says. "There is no one left at my family." When the village disappeared, Saunders's house somehow stayed standing while those around it collapsed. She views it as a sign that she must remain as a witness to the past. "I believe there will be an end to this," she says. "And I will be here." □



Blood and politics

A wave of vicious killings hits a troubled nation

The ferocity of the initial attack shocked the Kenyan coast town of Mombasa. In suburban Likoni, where hundreds of tourists pass through each day on the way to the south coast beaches and resorts, up to 200 people armed with machetes, guns, knives

and bows and arrows descended on the police headquarters and a small police station. Seven policemen and eight civilians were slaughtered, some shot with weapons and ammunition stolen from the police armory, others hacked to death. More attacks followed in Mombasa and neighboring towns through the week, taking the toll to at least 42 lives. An hour up the coast in Malindi, where hawkers sell seashore bowls, wooden carvings and other souvenirs, 400 stalls were reduced to ashes. German visitor Hermann Spangenberg slipped through the rubble, clutching a camera and looking dazed. "All the trouble was in Nairobi, Mombasa, Likoni, but not here," he said. "Then overnight, the trouble came." Although police emphasized that tourists were not targeted, travel operators said the sudden and mysterious violence had prompted many to cancel their bookings. Since tourism is Kenya's biggest industry, earning \$450 million annually, that was more bad news for a country already facing serious political and economic problems.



Victim in Mombasa: machetes, guns and bows and arrows

Most of the victims of the Mombasa violence were people who had migrated from outside the area, apparently killed by locals. The city has seen such violence before—in the lead-up to the last presidential election in 1992. "The reason for this attack, I think is political," said Catholic Archbishop John Njiru. "In other words, back to what happened in 1992, to tribalism." That is the Swahili term for tribalism. Hard-liners have interpreted it to mean that only people from a given region should live and work there. In 1992, it sparked ethnic clashes that killed thousands. The movement reshaped the political landscape—and helped President Daniel arap Moi and his ruling KANU party win re-election.

Opposition and government leaders trad-

ed accusations of blame for the latest violence. But there is no doubt that this is also an election year in Kenya. After 15 successive years in office, Moi is standing for another five-year term. It was only in 1991 that he grudgingly allowed a multi-party system to operate in Kenya. The con-

stitution for change is a recurring theme this year. Opponents of the government this spring began calling on Moi to change constitutional laws that deny them, among other things, the right to assembly and equal access to the courts. They also want the constitution changed to allow for a coalition government. But broke was over the in state in Nairobi on May 31, but Moi said there was no time for reform before the election, due by the end of the year. In early July, opposition demonstrators were brutally dispersed by police and military units. More than a dozen people were killed in largely unprovoked attacks. Then anti-working police entered Nairobi's All Faiths Anglican cathedral and beat up worshippers inside the church and on its grounds. International pressure mounted. Canada led a group of 22 countries pressing Moi to institute free and fair elections. In late July, the government announced it would change the laws that the opposition had targeted and promised to begin looking into reforming the constitution. But as far there have been no substan-

Robert Shaw, a senior member of Soka, a party led by famed anthropologist Richard Leakey, which Moi has refused to register. "One way or another, the government will win." Late last week, Moi visited Mombasa on a previously scheduled trip. As he landed in his helicopter on a private golf course, he gave no indication anything was wrong, simply waving to the crowded-off crowd. But whether he can wear off the rising discontent in his country is another question.

JENNIFER GLASSE is in Nairobi

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The rising force on the right

There's not much to recommend the stretch of U.S. Highway 74 that slices through the town of Winston near the southern border of North Carolina. Gas stations and fast-food joints—the common clutter of midtown America—line the roadside. But across the highway from Wingate Alterra and a Hardee's restaurant sits a handsome white mansion, and inside are photos, albums and a newspaper that chronicle the remarkable political career of a local boy made good: Jesse Helms. To the right of the entranceway is a desk similar, they say, to the one the senator works at in Washington, and on the desk lies a Bible open to Psalm 90.

Classical civil discourse are raised about law, righteousness and judgment are the hallmarks of his house.

Life goes on here, and the world is a place where it should be. Helms is a devout Baptist, and so would not admit to worshipping any suggestion that the words of the Psalm might apply to him and the uncompromising way he conducts his politics. But 25 years after he was first elected to the U.S. Senate, the exhibit in the Jesse Helms Center on Highway 74 bear witness to his endearing influence as American political life. Far from being a fading star, now he is, at age 75 and in his 69th term as senator, more powerful than ever as the imperious chairman of the Senate's foreign relations committee.

He has pushed U.S. foreign policy firmly to the right—more recently forcing a shakeup at the United Nations and a major reorganization of the state department. And, of course, he has turned the screws on Cuba's Communist government, and countries like Canada that show their criticism to the Americans with it, by lobbying the Helms-Burke Act.

This summer, he has again flexed his muscles by effectively vetoing President Bill Clinton's choice of a new U.S. ambassador to Mexico. William H. Webster—ex-governor of Massachusetts, senator at Mexico affairs and a member of Helms's own Republican party—would seem ideally suit-

ON ASSIGNMENT
ANDREW PHILLIPS
IN NORTH CAROLINA



Writes: Clinton meets with Helms (left) the senator doesn't answer his opponents—the publisher

ed to Helms. But he failed Helms's ideological litmus test on drugs, abortion rights and other issues, and so the senator blocked his appointment by the simple expedient of refusing to hold a hearing on the nomination, as the American system requires. Well, he said acerbically, as not "ambassador quality"—partly because he favors the medical use of marijuana under some circumstances. Helms argues that Wolf's support for it disqualifies him from representing the United States in a country where drug trafficking is a major issue. Wolf fired back angrily accusing Helms of "ideological education." In itself, such a squabble over a mid-level diplomatic post would be little more than a summertime diversion. But it starkly underlined Helms's determination to get his own way—even at the cost of setting off a daring

ling fight between factions of his own party. All of that has been Helms's amazing respect of many who oppose his bedrock conservative values, as well as the absence of those who simply recognize him as a power that must be reckoned with. The editors of the Helms center swirl with controversy from corporate donors eager to express their appreciation for the senator's career. A parade of the powerful makes its way to the Wingate to speak at the center and at Wingate University, the nearby Baptist college that Helms briefly attended. Henry Kissinger, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, former UN ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick, Republican presidential hopeful Steve Forbes, even the Dalai Lama—all have made the trip to pay tribute to Helms's power. The most recent was Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who pulled out all the stops to woo Helms; she gave him a T-shirt bearing the goody slogan "Senator at the state department loves me," and was photographed actually holding hands with the senator.

Helms's firm on the right are ecstatic. The

Jesse Helms flexes his conservative muscle

the 1960s, deflating traditional values and opposing the black civil rights movement. But he long ago concluded that what he wrote as the "liberal media" will not give him news a fair shake. When a reporter asked him recently about Wolf's chances of becoming ambassador to Mexico, Helms did not bother to elaborate on his position, but threw back a phrase in Latin: "No spes inquam." The thing speaks for itself.

The Helms Center, open to all, is a place of still, and suggests some private lessons about the man it honors. It was founded in 1986 to house Helms's Senate papers, and to "promote the principles of traditional values, democratic government and free enterprise." Since 1984, it has been housed in the main wing on Highway 74, where visitors are greeted with a 9.3-minute video that proudly avows the backbone that Helms won by blocking any measure that met his disapproval: "Senator No." On the desk is a big red rubber stamp, a gift from Helms's staff, that also proclaims "No."

Editorial cartoons on the walls make it clear that Helms reveals in his role as the scourge of liberals. Photos show him with conservative icons as Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, Alexander Solzhenitsyn and Chomsky himself. Every year there are awards from the World Anti-Communist League, the Children and Christians for a Better America. There is a hooded Greek awestruck emblazoned with "Jesse Helms, Communism, Afghan Freedom Fighters," and a framed copy of the Helms-Burke Act. Other messages are more obscure. What can it mean, for example, that among Helms's books on display in the center is a copy of the *Canadiana* by Andrew Molloy, labeled between a conservative polemic entitled *Massachusetts Exposed* and *Captured by Karl Marx*?

Among the things the center does not do is where the money comes from. Past donors have included the governments of Kuwait, which gave \$346,000 in 1991, and Taiwan (\$310,000 in 1990). The center no longer solicits foreign donations, and Helms insists that they never affected his actions. "You can't influence me, nobody can except the Lord," he said last fall when his campaign for a new Senate term was in full swing. Helms's success in Washington two decades ago, almost alone, set new parts of mainstream conservatism. Among them, noted Seneca, are such right-wing manifestos as a balanced-budget amendment to the Constitution, a flat tax on income, school prayer, and tougher curbs on abortion. How does he do it? By refusing, concluded Helms, to play the standard political game of fundraising and popularity-seeking. Helms has gained strange new respect not as many conservatives have—by moving left. Helms has earned it the hard way—by not moving at all.

Helms does not spend much time defending his views in the news media. He came to prominence in North Carolina as a hard right television and radio commentator in

campaigning, and comes from a state that is less conservative and less hardline about than some others in the South. Those who have followed Helms's career say he succeeded for two reasons: he rode the wave of conservatism that erupted in reaction to the social changes of the 1960s, and he was among the first to use sophisticated with aspects of political marketing. His traditional values, they note, did not stop him from taking advantage of the inner cracks of the politician's trade. "He was always a step ahead," notes Thad Boyle, a political scientist at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "He built his own political machine before a lot of people realized we had moved from party politics to personal politics."

In fact, Helms was among the first politicians to master both television and direct mail fund-raising, which allowed him to tap into a national network of conservatives instead of relying only on supporters in North Carolina. Carter Wrenn, a Republican political consultant who worked closely with Helms from the mid-1970s until the early '90s, recalls how his sen-

ator relied heavily on an organization Wrenn built up called the National Congressional Club, a national conservative group that included the National Citizens for the Constitution Club. At its peak, it was sending out five million letters a year to conservative Americans, pushing Helms as a bulwark against liberal change and recruiting millions of dollars in return. That drew Helms from relying on either his party or the media. His campaign got most of their clout via tough, negative TV ads—while Helms himself made few personal appearances.

Still, says Wrenn, who broke with Helms in the early '90s after a personal dispute, the most sophisticated techniques cannot replace five straight victories. "Jesse's got guts," he says. "Like him or not, you've got to admit he doesn't back a fight. He's got a bit of the hard-core brawler in him." Helms became the most unopposed conservative in the United States with a national audience. He is an unending anti-Communist, whose fierce opposition to the Castro regime won him the admiration and financial support of Cuban exiles in Florida and culminated in last year's Helms-Berke Act. Conservative trade groups like Cuban-Americans for Liberty and Justice have been so contempt. He twists Europeans by jokingly reminding them that American troops have come to their rescue twice this cen-

ry, and he had his spokesmen tell Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy that he should apologize to the American people because Canada did not line up with Washington against Castro.

Helms also pushed Christian moral issues: opposition to all abortion, to gay rights, and to public funding for what he called "degenerate art," such as the homoerotic photographs of Robert Mapplethorpe. And unlike some other old-style southern politicians, such as George Wal-



Protecting Helms-Berke Act last year in Miami; contempt for those trading with Cuba

lace in Alabama and Strom Thurmond in South Carolina, he never publicly showed his early support for segregation. He loudly opposed making Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday on Jan. 15 a national holiday, and was a strong ally of the old apartheid government of South Africa. His efforts almost no support among the 52 per cent of North Carolina's voters who are black. His voters are always narrow—53 to 55 per cent. "He doesn't win over his opponents," says Wrenn. "He polarizes."

Helms's recent success has been particularly daunting for Harvey Gantt, the man who challenged him in both 1990 and 1996. Their matchups were classic battles of opposites: Gantt is a liberal African-American with a string of civil rights firsts behind him. He was the first black student at a school South Carolina's Clemson University in the 1960s, and became the first black mayor of the booming North Carolina city of Charlotte. He is an architect with a thriving civil practice—a shining example of the so-called New South. Gantt's supporters hoped that the state's changing demographics would help him win. Instead, at those sands of professionals from the north have flocked to his high-tech industries. But both times, he lost out to the Old South, at least as

represented by Helms. Analysts say that what Gantt's camp missed was that most of the new voters were Republicans. "Jesse may not be their kind of Republican, but at least he's a Republican," says Wrenn. "They support him because they dislike him less than his opponents."

Gantt, who has reflected at length on Helms's appeal. "People think he's out of touch, but he really very much in touch with the people of North Carolina—at least the 52 or 53 per cent who vote for him," says Gantt. "He doesn't want every little guy who thinks like him would like to do stand at the gap and keep out the people they think are trying to change things for the worse. Jesse Helms represents exactly that kind of defiance." Helms's campaign played the race card against Gantt in 1990 by running TV ads showing a pair of white hands crumpling a job application form while a voice intoned racial quotes for jobs. Many have called him a racist, but Gantt says: "I stay away from calling anybody that. Let's just say that Jesse has never failed to use any form of wedge issue or divisive issue in advance has point of view. And that leaves a legacy of bitterness."

Now Helms has taken his stand against Wolf's nomination as U.S. ambassador to Mexico, and few expect him to yield. Wolf went so far as to resign as governor of Massachusetts on July 29 to avoid the fight for the position (and, say some analysts, to position himself for an eventual bid for the presidency). Wolf intimates his supporters in that Helms will not even allow the former white house campaigner to leave Michigan, but since Wolf refuses to hold a hearing. All 46 Democrats in the Senate signed a petition urging him to compromise, as did eight Republicans. Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana, a leading Republican, went so far as to say that Helms was acting like a "defiant."

The fight will stretch into the fall. The Clinton administration has promised to keep pressing for Wolf's nomination over the Senate returns from its summer recess in September, but few observers expect Helms to lose. Wolf floated the accepted rules of behavior for confirmation hearings by publicly rebuking Helms, and the White House has more to lose by offending him than it does by letting Wolf's nomination slide. The result is a new squabble between moderate and conservative Republicans—one of the delights Democrats and underlines the power of the man who is proud to call himself "Senator No."

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REPAIRING MIR

Two Russian cosmonauts successfully reattached new power cables on the stricken Mir space station in a grueling six-hour operation. The pair safely returned to the spacecraft's core from the damaged Spektr module and were due to return to earth early this week. Mir last built its power when an armoured cargo craft craned into the Spektr module on June 25.

NEW ENGLAND RAMPAGE

In Calverton, N.H., near the Quebec border, a man who had a long-standing feud over zoning with local officials shot dead four people and wounded four others before police killed him in a 15-minute gun battle. Carl Drago, 57, murdered a former councilwoman he had a grudge against, a newspaper editor who tried to help her, and two state troopers. During his rampage, Drago also burned down his house. He had hidden hundreds of kilograms of landmines and explosives in the local property.

THE POPE COURTS YOUTH

Pope John Paul II received a pop-star welcome from 500,000 young people at a youth-oriented youth festival in Paris that he hoped would help reverse religion among their generation. But in a poll of French adults under 30 years old, 63 per cent said religion plays no significant role in their lives. The Pope also chastised Western countries for crackdowns on immigration, declaring that the world's wealthiest have a moral duty to care for the needy.

ARAFAT MEETS RADICALS

Delving Israeli demands that he get tough on extremists, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat met for two days of "tough talks" with Islamic militants opposed to the peace process. Arafat embraced a leader of the Islamic resistance movement Hamas at a meeting in Gaza also attended by the Islamic Islamic Jihad. Israeli officials said he was "giving the terrorist organizations a stamp of approval."

JOURNALISTS FRIED

An award-winning Russian television reporter and two colleagues were released by their Chechen captors after their network said they paid a ransom of over \$1 million. Yelena Matyuk and the three were held in a zone for most of their 150 days in Chechnya, where hostage-taking has become epidemic.



Blue-bellied Bosnian Serb police wait past a British armored vehicle: a weapons stockpile

A NATO show of force in Bosnia

NATO forces staged their biggest confrontation yet with supporters of Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic as they took over six key police stations and barracks in his stronghold of Srebrenica. About 100 heavily armed Bosnian Serb soldiers, backed by U.S. Apache helicopters hovering overhead, ousted hundreds of police loyal to Karadzic and replaced them with followers of his rival, Bosnian Serb President Alija Izetbegovic. The UN-mandated forces also seized more than 2,500 weapons, including assault rifles, submachine guns and rocket launchers, which diplomats said Karadzic's followers may have stockpiled for a coup attempt.

The Western show of force was designed to shore up Izetbegovic in her drive toward power struggle with Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb president and an accused war criminal who was barred from holding office under the 1995 Dayton peace accord that ended the Bosnian conflict. In July, Izetbegovic dissolved parliament and called for new elections that he hoped would

oust his supporters, whom he accused of corruption. Although also a Serbian nationalist, she became ideologically Karadzic's attempt to block implementation of the Dayton agreement, thus depriving Serbs of needed Western aid. But she found her clout restricted by Karadzic's secret police network, and appealed to the Americans for help in breaking it up, diplomats said.

After last week's raid, U.S. sources said NATO might stage similar operations in other towns, pushing Karadzic farther from the defense and perhaps opening the way for his arrest and transfer to the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague. Western countries also backed Izetbegovic in her plan to hold an election in October, refusing to accept a ruling by a Bosnian Serb constitutional court that her dissolution of parliament was illegal. After diplomats said the vote was rigged, a member of the seven-judge court said he had been severely beaten up by hostile nationalists who told him to get out of the court. The five judges who showed up voted 4-1 against her.

the Korean peninsula, where large minefields protect South Korea from the North. Canada's proposal, favored by Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy at a meeting last year, would outlaw all anti-personnel mines, banned for killing 25,000 civilians a year. Washington also said it would continue to fund through the slow-paced UN Conference on Disarmament, which includes major anti-personnel countries such as China and Russia that oppose a ban. But U.S. officials said they wanted to build on the momentum of the Ottawa Process, now supported by more than 100 countries.

Mines ban backed

A significant victory for Canadian foreign policy, President Bill Clinton announced that the United States would participate in the so-called Ottawa Process aimed at a global ban on land mines. Washington had previously been cool to Canada's initiative, which seeks an immediate and total ban in a treaty due to be signed in Ottawa in December. The U.S. support, however, will carry a price. State department officials said that at an upcoming meeting in Oslo, Norway, U.S. delegates would insist on an extension for

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Local Service Competition

The battle for market share spreads

There are three things about competition that you get to make choices," says telecommunications consultant Ian Angus of Angus Telecommunications. "The bad thing about competition is that you have to make choices." With the dawn next year of a truly competitive Canadian telecommunications industry, in which myriad telecom suppliers will offer both local and long distance service, business consumers will face a lot of new and challenging choices.

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ANDREW TROBIAK, PRESIDENT, MICROCELL TELECOMMUNICATIONS

example: dial tone, the ability to make calls within the local calling area, operator access, and advanced custom features such as call alert and caller identification.

"Local service competition is extremely important to business because, for the first time, it gives them the choice for all of their telecom services, and that gives them control and buying power," says Phil Bates, president and CEO of Sprint Canada, which plans to begin offering local services in late 1998.

Competition promises to reduce business telecom costs. "Consistent with our approach in long distance and data, we will offer customers savings," says Bates. "Our clients will save money by buying our local service."

"Telecommunications is a major expense as well as a critical enabler," says George Herbosa, vice-president of corporate development for ACC Enterprises, a competitive access telecom provider. "Businesses are increasingly looking for suppliers who can provide not just competitive pricing and choice, but integrated solutions—those who take time to understand a business and then present a portfolio of solutions."

"One of the most interesting things that I think all providers are looking at is what kind of bundles we can put together," says Carol Stephenson, president and CEO of Sonnet Resource Centre Inc. While Sonnet companies are currently restricted in the kinds of services they may bundle, she expects that market demand will soon ease these restrictions. "Once we start combining some of the information technology services, like Internet, data services and entertainment services, it really becomes quite an exciting opportunity."

Competition is driving telcos to create new technologies to deliver local service. "We're on the technology curve here," says Dean Provost, vice-president of business and strategy development for AT&T Canada Enterprises Inc., which plans to enter the local service market by mid-1998. "A mosaic of technologies will bring products and services to customers."

Bell Canada and some other Sonnet telecom carriers, for instance, intend to provide new high-speed ADSL (digital subscriber line) services to market later this year. "The ending story for this technology is increasingly higher speeds over the existing telecom network," says John Sheridan, a group vice-president with Bell Canada. ADSL can simultaneously carry both voice and data over existing copper pair telephone wires at speeds faster than existing ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) lines and Sheridan says it's available for residential and business customers.

Anything that makes the Internet faster is a hot commodity right now, and Canadian cable companies have more homes per capita wired to receive high-speed Internet access than any other country. WAVE, cable's high-speed Internet access, is currently provided by Rogers, Shaw, Videotron, Cablestar and Western Co-Anal and available to more than one million Canadian customers, says Frank Corbett, President of Rogers WAVE. The service employs high-speed cable modems and the wide bandwidth cable to reduce Internet access times from minutes to seconds. "It's like trading in your own-wheeler for a jet plane," says Corbett. "WAVE is up to 15 times faster than regular Internet service and our customers are thrilled with the speed."

TELECOM Innovative Tools to Transform Your Business

Canada's Joe Sarnecki, vice-president of Noriel Wireless, says his firm has developed a fixed wireless technology, called Proximity, which delivers all the functionality of a landline, but with increased bandwidth and speed. "Proximity like Proximity will make it possible for telecom carriers to compete in the local calling market with wireless, even in very remote areas," he says.

Already, cellular companies are competing with both traditional analog cellular and digital cellular, known as PCS, since many people use cellular as a second local line. "If you compare Fido (a PCS service) with local loop prices, you'll see the difference is not very big," says Andre Tremblay, president of Microcell Telecommunications, a PCS provider. "I think we're going to grab a piece of that market."

Personal Communications Service

The next big "wave"

Back in 1985 when cellular phones were first introduced in Canada, telecom consultant Ian Angus downplayed their appeal, claiming they would be a rich man's toy. As he says now, "who would have imagined then that it would turn out that the biggest adopters were people with pickup trucks and that prices would fall so much that kids would carry them?"

Indeed, And now, with new digital PCS cellular service available in most major Canadian centers, the cellular telephone is likely to become a mass market appliance. "Over the next 10 years, there will be 10 million purchases of PCS handsets (in Canada)," says George Cope, president of Clearnet Communications Inc., one of four PCS-licensed telecom carriers

in Canada. "Right now, 12.5% of Canadians are using wireless. That figure is expected to grow to close to 50% in the next 10 years."

Already, Microcell Telecommunications, the first telecom carrier to launch a PCS network in Canada, indicates that it has captured 8.8% of all new cellular customers in its initial network markets: Montreal, Quebec City, Ottawa-Hull and Toronto. That's twice the 4.2% share that they were expecting. Now, with expansion to Vancouver, Microcell president Andre Tremblay says, "we believe we can reach as high as 60,000 users by the end of this year."

PCS, which stands for Personal Communications Service, is a new digital wireless service often described as the new generation of cellular telephony. The digital technology provides true mobility—battery life is much longer, permitting all-day use, voice clarity approaches land-line quality, and communications are securely encrypted. The digital technology also permits new features, such as call display, cost messaging, and even text storage so that, in future, we can expect to receive information services such as stock quotes or sports scores via the Internet right to the PCS handset.

Since PCS operates in the newly licensed 1.9 GHz radio frequency spectrum, it has greater traffic capacity than existing analog cellular service. This has many benefits—for instance, PCS calls won't deteriorate or come to an unexpected end. "Unfortunately," says Brian O'Shaughnessy, vice-president technology development and planning with Bell Mobility, "we see it expanding into higher throughput data services such as high-speed data transmission." He even foresees the day when we'll have video via cellular. For example, if your home's

"Over the next 10 years, there will be 10 million purchases of PCS handsets (in Canada). Right now, 12.5% of Canadians are using wireless and that figure is expected to grow to close to 50%."

GEORGE COPE, PRESIDENT, CLEARNET COMMUNICATIONS INC.

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door alarm sends a signal to your cellular handset, you'll be able to view the door on your PCS handset to see if there's only a problem.

Building out a new PCS network takes time, however, so PCS on the 1.9 GHz frequency is as far available only in major cities from one location, Microsoft. Last fall, Cantel AT&T launched digital cellular on existing cellular network frequency. Robert MacKerrow, vice-president of digital PCS for Cantel AT&T says that the combination of the new digital phones and Cantel's "digital intelligent" network permits it to carry more phone calls. "It's a much more efficient way of carrying traffic," he says. Still, to ease future congestion on their network, Cantel AT&T does plan to convert some of its existing analog network in major cities to the 1.9 GHz spectrum.

This fall, Clearnet will launch its consumer PCS service on the 1.9 GHz frequency in Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto. Since 1996, Clearnet has offered a business PCS service, called Mike, in Ontario and Quebec. By May this year, they reported 15,000 clients on the network. "We've been adding 150 to 200 business users each day on the network," says Cape. "Mike does everything that PCS does but it also does radio dispatch communications as well. It's growing as we thought it would and we're very pleased."

Bell Mobility will also launch its new 1.9-GHz PCS service this fall. "We expect it to grow fairly quickly but we also expect (analog) cellular to continue to grow quickly," says O'Shaughnessy. "We intend to have analog cellular around for at least the next 10 years." ■

Listening to Business

TeleCon '97 coming to Toronto this fall

Gather together Apollo 13 astronaut Captain James Lovell, communications guru and author Dr. Sherry Turkle and Forcible Bertrand, chairman of the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), and what do you have? A blockbuster telecommunications conference and exhibition, TeleCon '97, to be held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on September 16-18.

Sponsored by the Canadian Business Telecommunications Alliance (CBTA), the conference highlights Canada's contributions to global telecommunications. In addition to keynote speakers Lovell, Turkle and Bertrand, the program features six important plenary sessions including: Globalization of Telecommunications; Electronic Commerce; Strategic Positioning of Canadian Stakeholders in the Global Environment; and The Doc-

tor in the Health and New Technologies.

The 25 breakout sessions vary from the practical (Managing Call Centres) to the challenging (Making Deals on Electronic Networks) to the inspiring (Coping with this Spring's Flooding in Manitoba).

The exhibition will display the latest telecom technologies, including those used in space exploration that are finding business applications down here on Earth. The show will demonstrate the link between technology and how business operates today and in the future.

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People

Edited by
BARBARA HICKENS

The queen of rock TV

As the recently appointed vice-president and general manager of MuchMusic, she might be expected to reign from her office. But the infatigably enthusiastic **Dorine Dorion** is highly visible at the downtown Toronto headquarters of Much, the music channel available to 6.5 million Canadian cable subscribers and 10 million Americans. When not traveling—which she does often, including visits to Much sister stations in Argentina and Finland—Dorion is right in the thick of things, shepherding show guests like **Anne Lennox** or **No Doubt**, working with producers on technical concerns, and consulting with writers on script outlines. "This place," says Dorion, "keeps getting me charged up in the morning." Toronto-born Dorion, 41, got her start in music while studying psychology at Ontario's University of Waterloo, where she lived bands. After she graduated and moved to Vancouver, in 1985 then-Redding MuchMusic asked her to be its Rock Flash News host. By 1993, she was director of music programming—and the wife of singer **Murray McLauchlan**, with whom she has five-year-old David.

Part of what keeps Dorion going is the chance to make a difference. In the '80s, lending the mindlessness and soul of many rock videos, she began thinking about ways to raise the consciousness of her audience. She initiated specials such as *Rock & Roll & Reading*, in which performers discuss books, and *Rock Much 4 Music*, in which a community panel deconstructs music videos. And, on Sept. 16, Much is introducing the first "genderless" music video awards, rather than best male and best female categories. "We are trying to break down every bit of awards show pretentiousness," says Dorion. "These are the winners."

Dorion is the queen of things with stars, and inspiring rock TV's biggest.

'A perfect mission'

For **Bjorn Trygvason**, the wait is over. The 51-year-old engineer, who was born in Iceland and moved to Canada at 7, was one of the handful of Canadians chosen as astronauts back in December, 1993. Since then, he has been conducting flight experiments while

waiting his turn. Finally, his number, STS-85, came up, and on July 7 Trygvason blasted off aboard the space shuttle *Discovery* for an 11-day mission to study changes in the Earth's atmosphere. The first reads he heard upon touching down last week at Cape Canaveral, Fla., were from mission control: "Discovery welcomes home, this looked like a perfect mission from start to finish."

Presto: big-screen magic

Carque du Soleil is expanding from the big top to the big screen. Since its first show in Montreal in 1988, the company, which recruits talent from around the world, has created magical effects by combining traditional circus acts—minus the animals—with street theater, outlandish costumes and original music. Now, *Carque du Soleil*, which has a permanent theatre in Las Vegas, Nev., as well as two touring outfits, aims to bring some of that magic to the movies. Currently filming in location in Berlin after a four-week stint in Amsterdam, *Allegro*—the Spanish word for joy—is a love story about Frac (German born, Canadian-raised **Roni Harbeck**), a disillusioned man, and Gullotta (English actor **Julie Lewis**), a singer at a traveling circus. As their romance progresses, the two rescue a street urchin, Memo (nine-year-old **Clipper Miano** of Toronto), from taskmaster Marcello (English actor **Heathcote Williams**). *Allegro*—its director **Franco Dragone**, who cosigned eight of *Carque du Soleil*'s nine stage productions—including 1994's *Allegro*, on which the movie is based—hopes they succeed in the goal of lifting the business spirit. Says Dragone: "This can always participate to change negativity."

Cast of the film *Love and anarchy*



Photo by J. S.



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Barrett: The quality of life is your other winning at losing

aggression in his attempts to bulk up the Molson beer franchise. There was the inadvertent last April sitching it to archival Labatt over Labatt's introduction of the Solstice beer brand to Ontario. "B.C. in 1987," said the ads, among the Labatt had misled Ontarians into thinking that their Kokanee came from the alcohol waters of Creston, B.C., as opposed to the other more local waters of London, Ont. "I think a couple of those Kokanee ads were grossly misleading," says Barrett. "Look at those ads and any reasonable person would see the beer was coming out of a brewery stuck up in the mountains." That's not, he says, "fair game," though such marketing has never helped beer makers before.

The same month, Molson sued Labatt in the Supreme Court of British Columbia, alleging that production dates on their beer cartons were inaccurate. In June, Barrett countered a Labatt price cut in Ontario by chopping \$5 from the price of a case of 24, a move that cut the brewer somewhere in the neighborhood of \$4 million in earnings. In tactical terms, the price reductions were a wash for both companies. "I don't think it gets them anywhere at all," says Bill Chisholm, an analyst with Bancorp Capital Corp.

Barrett has made some smart moves, creating a decentralized structure for the brewer, recognizing the inoperability of the Canadian beer market. "One brand will do extremely well in one part of geography and not in others," he says. "That's part of the magic of the game: trying to understand why that happens." That applies to taste and marketing. In May, the company introduced Caplane Prime Ale to British Columbia and Alberta, marketing it as "higher wine than wine." "Clean, dry, aromatic" and "dark, warm, tangy" color. In other words, bring to capital on the growing popularity of alternative premium beer.

Not only do beer-drinking tastes vary from region to region, but beer drinking overall continues to slide. In 1990, according to

Molson Breweries' ownership structure—40 per cent held by Molson Co. Ltd., 40 per cent by the Foster's Brewing Group Ltd. of Australia, and 20 per cent by Miller Brewing Co. of Milwaukee, Wis.—would appear to be an impediment. Barrett, however, says the brewery has no difficulty operating "with one voice."

But that doesn't solve the parent company's need to create to be an operating brewing unit once again. The performance of the brewer is critical to Molson Co. Last fall, the parent company, still controlled by Montreal's Molson family, and goodbye to CEO Mickey Cohen, who had staked his reputation on building Molson into a global, diversified holding company. That plan ultimately died with the sale of Deregmyer Corp., the company's technical subsidiary, in January 1986. An old Molson hand, Norman Seagram, was appointed to replace Cohen as president and set about consolidating further diversifiers to move the company back to its brewing roots.

Brewer Lumber, wholly owned by Molson, was an obvious target. Before his departure, Cohen was waiting on an all-cash sale of Beaver to Canwest Building Centres of Port Hope, Ont., which has kindly awarded Beaver since late 1989. But the price failed to agree on terms. After Cohen left, there was a plan, devised under Seagram, that would instead see the merger of the two companies, with Molson retaining an equity stake in the new company. But that didn't fit with the all-cash plan dictated by Molson Co. Discussions ended last November. "I would still like to acquire it," says Canwest president Craig Crothers.

In the end, Seagram won't secure long enough to make it to a single annual meeting. Molson showed him the door in May. Responding to the sale of Molson and Molson's 50 per cent stake in Hanco Dregot Canada, now left to Jim Barrett, a career lawyer whose challenge is to reform Molson to a 100-per cent beer company. His first priority has been to attempt to buy back, along with Foster's, the 20 per cent held by Miller. On Sept. 10,

Barrett will address shareholders in his first annual general meeting as CEO. The pressure is on him to complete the Miller deal before then. In the meantime, he's not giving interviews. "People have accused him of being a coward," says Molson's spokesman Paul de la Plante. "It's definitely not that." Barrett has a big agenda, he says. "Basically, we think time's going fast. People watching us think it's going slower."

If Barrett fails in taking out Miller, he will have just four months to obtain Miller's approval for a partnership between the Coors Brewing Co., Foster's and Molson. The Coors bet the war and ends a decade for Molson, which manages the Coors brands in Canada, when Coors claimed that Miller's stake in Molson breached its own marketing arrangements. In April, Molson paid \$100 million to Coors to settle the claim, and now faces a far less profitable brewing and sales agreement with Coors.

Then there is Foster's. This new pattern of market stability at Molson means buying back the 40 per cent held by the Australian brewer. But earlier this month, Foster's announced that it has no interest in selling. In five years, Molson has the right to buy back 10 per cent of the brewery from Foster's. But under the partnership agreement, Foster's will retain an equal say even if its equity position is diminished.

Barrett makes it sound as though the going-on at HQ does not affect him at all. Through the corridors of the brewery's management offices, a good mile from the parent company's executive offices, workers in casual dress seem to take pride in the cultural divide between the two and make snide jokes about how publicly they top the bosses are. Posting for photographs, Barrett takes a pull on a draft ale, a choice he is apparently comfortable with. His market share may be getting squeezed, but Barrett swears he is having a heck of a lot of fun playing the beer game. □

Not only are Canadians drinking less beer...

... but Molson's share of the market is declining

Per capita consumption



a survey by the Brewers Association of Canada, average per person beer consumption stood at 78 litres, a drop from 83 litres a decade earlier. That has now dropped to a mere 70 litres, asking Canadians look like the people consumed with, say, the Czechs, who consume 100 litres per person annually. Not only several countries on the decline, the share claimed by small and regional breweries continues to climb.

Molson has to prove itself nimble in this fading market. Its critics say it is still too fat, has too many plants, too many employees and spends too much on marketing. In January, the company announced the closure of its facility in Waterloo, citing competition from U.S. microbreweries and declining consumption. But that effort to cut costs is more done in the back end. "Molson makes \$200 million less than Labatt making the same amount of beer," says Michael Palmer, an analyst at Lowens Chubbuck McCutcheon.

Thirst for growth

BY JENNIFER WELLS

Scene 1: a beer store lineup in midtown Toronto. Atmosphere: the usual drudgery spread throughout an uninspiring shopping environment. T-shirts and beer glasses for sale. A sampling of beer offerings are lined along two walls. Shoppers lined up like prison inmates awaiting their daughters. Lead character: a beer store regular, adult, early 30s, James Lead character turns to address complete stranger to his right. "What do you think about that commercial with two lobes kissing, eh? That's supposed to tell beer? It's two guys they wouldn't sell wine!"

Scene 2: the upstart Toronto headquarters of Molson Breweries. John Barrett, the company's beer-drinking, British-born chief executive, addresses the latest data at Molson, a not-yet-ard, though much talked about, television commercial for Molson Dry first, then, shown without knowing. This is a real shocker in beer land, fuelled by the Lager Lovers. Barrett of Ontario's insistence that the commercial be altered. Not for the losing part, but rather the implication that beer buying can lead to sexual conquest. So Molson needs some changes. "It's not a guy or lesbian ad," says Barrett. "It's really a joke on a guy."

Molson tries to halt a decline in beer sales

(The "guy" orders up a beer for a woman he has never met, only to have her share more interest in watching her own glider?)

Too bad. An advertisement overly aimed at as much as 80 per cent of the human population might have convinced consumers that beer marketing has at long last shed its No-nonsense image. And if any beer company is under pressure to capture a larger share of the beer-buying public, it is Molson. Eight years ago, Molson reigned

with Coors O'Kee, pointing a commanding 50.3-per-cent market share and leading-edge Labatt at 43 per cent. In its first fiscal quarter ending July 1, Molson's share of the domestic beer market, including imports, was down to 45.6 per cent. According to industry estimates, a single share point is worth about \$16 million. The \$80-million tonnage taken by Molson has not been well received at head quarters. The company brought Barrett up from its U.S. operations in November, 1995 to reverse the slide. "The reality of life is you're either winning or losing, and falling market share is a measure of losing," says Barrett.

The wacky 35-year-old, who grew up in the town of Godwin in the English Midlands and emigrated to Canada 30 years ago, has been

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Deirdre McMurdy



The Bottom Line

A two-tiered workforce

Leaders of the rough and ready Teamsters union have not traditionally been noted for their ability to lay upon the heartstrings of the general public. But Roseell Caray, president of the international Brotherhood of Teamsters, can lay clear claim to such a public relations coup in the strike against United Parcel Service. Just before a tentative agreement was reached last week, two independent opinion polls revealed his union—and, even more telling—support for the protected, disruptive and occasionally violent standard. The new contract—which provides for pay increases totalling 16 per cent or more over five years, for most workers, could also partly help to offset the U.S. inflation that is not even close to as significant victory for the fastest-growing segment of the North American labor force: part-time workers.

The issues underlying the strike extend into Canada, with yesterday's pro-union legislation. For one, the widespread public sympathy for the Teamsters reflects the extent of the backlash against corporate "re-engineering" and downsizing. Both strategies, the public seems to be saying, will no longer go unchallenged.

As the private sector takes over many functions previously performed by government, there is also a growing sense that companies should house their responsibilities to workers and society—particularly at a time when they are enjoying record profits. That was one of the key arguments used by Canadian Auto Workers head Doug Rankin last year in successful contract negotiations with the Big Three North American automakers.

The preoccupation behind the 15-day UPS strike was especially resonant. The union was battling to improve security and benefits for the company's 134,000 part-time workers. (In total, UPS employs 394,000 Americans.) Like many others in the rapidly expanding service sector, UPS has used part-time and contract employees extensively to contain costs and maintain flexibility.

That trend, however, has stirred concern about the entrenchment of a two-tiered workforce, divided between those with secure, full-time jobs—often with extensive health and pension benefits—and a separate category of more vulnerable part-timers. Already, about a fifth of Canada's 16.3 million workers are employed part-time, a percentage that is projected to grow as the service sector continues to expand. Earlier this year, that trend prompted workers at Starbucks coffee shops in Vancouver to join the ranks of the CAW. Around the same time, employees at a Wal-Mart store in Windsor, Ont., joined the United Steelworkers. Just last week, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers appealed for public support by comparing its latest bid for improved job security—and a hefty pay increase—to the situation at UPS.

Although the final terms of the new pact between UPS and the Teamsters have not been disclosed, the deal sets a costly precedent. The company itself estimates that its labor costs will increase by more than \$1.5 billion over the five-year life of the contract. If so, the company may be forced to raise prices. And if the example is followed elsewhere, it could spark long-dormant inflationary pressures.

Executives will likely bemoan the push to improve wages, benefits and job security for part-time and contract staff. But in the longer term, it is in their best interests. As the traditional industrial base of North America continues to be supplanted by the service sector, companies will be forced to rely more than ever on the loyalty and goodwill of reliable, well-trained, front-line employees.

In competitive global and domestic markets, customers increasingly value prompt, courteous and informative service. And they are willing to pay for it. The easiest way to convince consumers that a company has involved, concerned and devoted employees is to give those same workers credit to feel that way, regardless of whether they work full or part-time.



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Business NOTES

SETBACK FOR CORREL

Correl Corp. of Ottawa shelved plans to market a full range of office software written in Java, a programming language that allows applications to run on any kind of computer. The shift followed complaints that test versions of the software were slow and cumbersome. The move will make it harder for Correl to challenge Microsoft Corp. in the office software market.

BOMBARDIER LAYOFFS

Bombardier Inc. announced lower-than-expected profits and blamed reduced sales of Sea-Doo watercraft for 400 temporary layoffs this fall. The Montreal company said U.S. demand for Sea-Duos fell in June and July, in part because of bad publicity after several serious accidents.

TELECOM DEAL REVISED

British Telecommunications PLC submitted a revised bid for NCI Communications Corp. after NCI wanted of big losses in its U.S. phone business. The new cash-and-stock offer is worth about \$52 billion, down from an original \$27 billion. The two companies plan to join forces to create a global telephone powerhouse called Concord PLC.

PROFITS SET NEW RECORD

Canadian companies reported a record \$38.5 billion in operating profits in the April-June quarter, up 1.5 per cent from the first quarter. Statistics Canada said. Profits rose sharply at banks and computer firms, but fell in the auto industry.

IMPERIAL SELLS OILFIELDS

Imperial Oil Ltd. of Toronto is selling its largest oil field in Canada's biggest oilfields. The \$595-million deal involves properties in the July Creek-Silver Hills area of north-central Alberta, which have pumped nearly one billion barrels of oil since the late 1950s. The buyer is Pengrowth Energy Trust of Calgary, a fast-growing investment fund.

ROAD TO RICHES

A Toronto-based company is in the running to build a new \$1-billion highway across Israel. Canadian Highway International Corp., which built a new toll highway north of Toronto and is building another toll route in Nova Scotia, leads one of two consortiums on the Israeli government's shortlist. A decision is expected in November.

London Life's Power ties

Montreal millionaire Paul Desmarais has muscled inside the country's biggest bank in the bidding for London Insurance Group Inc. Royal Bank of Canada withdrew its \$8.5-billion offer after Desmarais's Great West Life Inc., based in Winnipeg, tabled a \$2.9-billion bid. The deal would create Canada's largest insurance company, but was greeted with trepidation by employees of the London, Ont.-based insurer. As many as 1,000 of its 7,300 workers could lose their jobs as a result of the merger. Analysts cheered the proposal, predicting that Great West's strength in group insurance and London's stature as the country's largest individual insurer would create a financial powerhouse. Desmarais's Power Financial Corp. also controls Winnipeg-based Investor's Group Inc., Canada's largest mutual fund company.

Desmarais' \$2.9-billion bid trumped the Royal Bank

John Cleghorn, the Royal's chairman and CEO, said the bank decided it would not make sense "from a shareholder perspective" to increase its offer for London Insurance. Instead, the Royal will walk away with a \$70-million consolation fee, which London had agreed to pay in the event that it chose a different suitor. The bank said it will continue efforts to expand in the insurance market, which has been rocked in recent years by a wave of consolidations.

Black demands buy-out

Madison Baron Conrad Black has gone heavily leveraged. Sun Media Corp. is deadline to buy out his shares in The Financial Post. Sun Media, which owns 60.2 per cent of the newspaper, has until the end of September to reach an agreement with the price of Black's 39.8-per-cent stake, after which the issue would go to a arbitrator. Analysts value the stake at about \$20 million. By demanding that Sun Media come up with

the money, Black appears to be putting pressure on the Toronto company to reconsider its earlier refusal to sell him the Post. In a recent *Maclean's* interview, Black made it clear he has not given up in his efforts to acquire the daily, and that one option would be to insist that Sun Media buy him out. As a contingency move, Black's Hollinger Group has been drawing up plans to launch a competing national daily. Such a move, he has said, would reduce the Post's market value.

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

The inflation rate in July stood at 1.8 per cent, unchanged from June. Manufacturing prices increased and a slight drop in manufacturing shipments in June reinforced expectations that the Bank of Canada will keep interest rates steady—despite a decline in the value of the Canadian dollar. A drop in June auto sales contributed to a 0.2-per-cent decrease in retail sales from July Overall, however, retail sales in the second quarter were 7.6 per cent higher than in the same period last year.

The U.S. Federal Reserve Board decided to lower its key

lending rate unchanged. But weakness in the greenback, and concerns that a softening in the strike by United Postal Service's employees will ignite wage pressures, helped send the Dow Jones industrial average into a tepid rally after three days of 100-point-plus gains. Manufacturing volatility in



stocks may indicate the bull market is running out of fuel, analysts said.

"While shipments are still 5.9 per cent above year-ago levels, this more temperate pace of manufacturing highlights the shift in Canadian growth from exports to domestic spending."

—Koski/Burns

"For the first time this decade, there are signs of labor union strength. This has raised doubts about how long wages can remain under control."

—Canada Trust

How to beat Revenue Canada

From his yacht in the Mediterranean, Alex Dodds just will not leave Revenue Canada alone. In 1994, Dodds wrote *Take Your Money and Run!*, a self-help volume that became one of the most popular business books in Canada, with more than 300,000 copies sold. In it, he told how Canadians could set themselves up off shore as nonresidents and live tax-free—as Dodds, a former financial analyst, did when he moved to Europe in 1980. Now the Vancouver-born Dodds is back with a sequel, *My New Haven*, which offers tips for people who want to stay in Canada but still take advantage of offshore tax havens.

Dodds's new book is sure to offend some readers, regardless of their views on the Canadian tax system. In the preface, he rants about government spending programs that he claims favor non-whites and women, arguing that it is time for white, working males to rebel by shifting their assets offshore. Even Dodds's associates admit his approach is not for everyone. "To a certain extent, it is somewhat cynical," says Paul LeBreun, a Toronto tax lawyer and partner of United Publishing Ltd., the firm that published *My New Haven*.

LeBreun adds, however, that the book's content reflects a widespread and growing demand from middle-class Canadians for information about offshore tax havens. Among a few things, the book offers suggestions for getting around new federal rules requiring taxpayers to dis-



Dodds (right) on his yacht and his help.

close the existence of foreign bank accounts and other offshore assets.

Not surprisingly, the early reviews from Revenue Canada are less than glowing. "We can't comment on the specific contents of the book, but we are on top of this issue," said tax department spokeswoman Collette-Greene-Haw. She added that Revenue Canada is in the process of quadrupling its staff of international tax auditors, and will continue to review its regulations to close any remaining loopholes that allow people to avoid taxes from the tax department.

Mixed reception

A few years of debate, Canada's securities regulators have finally arrived at a proposed set of rules governing the sale of mutual funds. But the effort leaves only a lukewarm endorsement from the investor who has led the drive for reform. Clarence Storchberg, a member of the Ontario Securities Commission who has frequently crossed swords with industry players, says the code will go some way toward protecting investors from questionable sales practices, although more needs to be done. Storchberg is unimpressed, for example, by the code's provision on jackets for mutual

fund sales representatives. For years, the companies that manage funds have sponsored sales conferences in exotic locales as a reward for financial planners and brokers who peddle their products. Critics say these trips create an incentive for dealers to push clients into particular funds. The new code would allow fund companies to continue subsidizing jackets, but only at destinations in Canada or the continental United States. In Storchberg's view, that is not much of a restriction. "The code still leaves a lot of room for incentives," she says. If fund companies want to sponsor sales conferences, Storchberg adds, they should be held "where people live and work," rather than at a luxury resort.

Money Talks

Mutual funds to grow

Thirty-nine per cent of Canadians with savings or investments plan to increase the percentage of their savings held in mutual funds over the next three years, an Angus Reid Group poll indicates. The survey, conducted among 3,500 adults in June for the accounting firm Ernst & Young, found that only eight per cent plan to reduce the proportion allocated to mutual funds.

Over the next three years, will the percentage of your savings allocated to mutual funds increase, decrease or remain the same?



Higher auto prices

The average price of a new car or light truck has increased 12.5 per cent since the start of 1995, wiping out any savings vehicle buyers might have reaped from the sharp drop in interest rates over that period, the Royal Bank of Canada says. It now takes the average worker 39.2 weeks of earnings to buy a new vehicle, up from 30.5 weeks in the early 1990s.

Unpaid balances soar

Combined unpaid balances on Visa and MasterCard credit cards have increased 64 per cent since 1992, to \$18.7 billion, says Paul Sampson, author of *Timing Personal Debt*. Published by McGraw-Hill Ryerson, the book offers advice on paying off debt, preparing a budget and negotiating favorable interest rates.



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FORECAST: INTEREST RATES Canada's improved inflation performance in recent months augurs well for continued low interest rates. Scotiabank economist Alex Gempel says, "Most analysts had predicted that rates would rise by midyear, but Gempel says he now expects the Bank of Canada to hold off until the final quarter of 1997. The markets are nervous about under economic growth," he says, "but it's hard for the bank to begin lagging on the monetary menu when inflation pressures are abating."

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Peter C. Newman

How Power trumped the Royal Bank

Last week's old takeover by Power Corp.—through Great West Life—of the London Insurance Group is typical of Paul Desmarais, who still guides the Montreal conglomerate's corporate strategy. The son of Desmarais, who turned over the operational side of Power's management to his sons, Paul and André, over a year ago, is one of the most remarkable guests of Canadian business. The few people who deal with him directly—and there have been even fewer since his recent heart bypass operation—tend to look at him with the same respect clinicians give a magnetron face. He is very much larger than life, and at 70, remains fully in charge of his work and his business.

Earlier this year, I spent a couple of days at his Palm Beach, Fla., home, interviewing him. From a distance, Desmarais looks as if he has hardly aged in the past two decades. It's all still there: the slight stoop when he is explaining a point, the long, sensitive fingers, and the elegant carriage of his gait. Up close, his features are less well-defined—the skin seems to be operating at no less intensity, but at slightly less volume.

But even as he enters his 70s, Desmarais can't control his enthusiasm. When I told him about some high-level corporate gossip I'd heard, his eyes widened, his eyebrows shot up and his mouth opened in astonishment. Instead of the staid corporate presence he had been a few seconds before, he looked like a backwoods prairie, witnessing the miracle of Polaroid photography for the first time. "Well," he exclaimed. "What do you think of that?"

The same large, inquisitive look after the Royal Bank of Canada announced it had the deal sewn up, in typical of the man and his methods. It's a highly significant move, because this is the first major acquisition in Canada the Desmarais group has undertaken in more than two decades. Since his orgy of mergers and buyouts in the 1970s, Desmarais has concentrated on buying up control of enterprises in Europe, where the assets of his burgeoning empire now exceed \$100 billion.

Since he stopped investing in Quebec during the early 1980s, where his only significant holdings that remain are a dozen small radio stations and a string of newspapers including *Le Presse*, his Canadian base of operations has shifted to Winnipeg. He controls the Manitoba capital's Investors Group Inc., the country's largest mutual fund operation (assets of \$30 billion), which would be a major investor in London Life if his takeover bid eventually succeeds. Winnipeg is also home to Great-West Life, which has assets of more than \$40 billion under administration, and has become a more active player in the Desmarais operation.

A tip-off to Great West's significance within the Power group is

that Desmarais usually assigns just two or three of the holding company's directors to serve on the boards of Power's subsidiaries. But the Great West board includes nearly the whole Power house: not only Desmarais and his two sons, but Power Financial Corp. CEO Robert Gattuso, vice-chairman Michael Finkel and Michel Plémeix-Ditail, and deputy chairman Jim Burns (who is a Great West alumnus), as well as Power director Don Mazankowski.

As in all his dealings, which have allowed Desmarais to fast-track his financial empire from a bankrupt bus line when he was growing up in Sudbury, Ont., to revenues of \$7 billion in 1996, the Desmarais move on London Life has been exquisitely timed. The bid takes advantage of the public securities update the Big Six banks taking over even more of the country's financial services.

The insurance firms are among the last holdouts. Great-West and London Life also enjoy much greater synergy in their corporate cultures than with the chartered banks. Their areas of specialization—London as integral in individual life, while Great-West leads in group insurance—meld beautifully.

The triumph of Desmarais over the Royal Bank is particularly fascinating because that was the bank that gave him the credit to start Power. "I should have bought the Royal a long time ago," Desmarais jokingly told me at Palm Beach. At one time, in the 1970s, Earle McLaughlin, who was the bank's chairman, and Desmarais were good friends, but kept kidding they were going to fire each other. "Earle," Desmarais recalled, "who was a Power director, told me once that if I didn't have those special 30 for 1 votes to maintain control, he would have voted me out long ago, and I told him that if the banks didn't have that God damn 10-per-cent [ownership limit] rule, I would have fired him. And then we both laughed."

That time, no one from the Royal Bank was laughing. The Desmarais system to treat each new business deal as an election campaign. As negotiations progress towards their climax, he takes on the urgent persuasiveness of a politician coming up to polling day. He has the knack of making people believe in his voice, even when it's against their self-interest. "Paul is probably the only businessman in Canada who can make a pitch to a board of directors for the takeover of their own company, and leave them in heat over the prospect," said a close observer of his methods.

Desmarais's greatest talent has always been his uncanny timing. He can sense changes in the political winds and shadows in the economic skyline, read the trends of each developing situation, and strike at the appropriate moment. The capture of London Life proves Paul Desmarais hasn't lost his touch.

Paul Desmarais's takeover of London Life shows that this remarkable giant of Canadian business retains his uncanny touch

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BY VICTOR DWYER

It is a classic good news/bad news story. Its central characters, teachers, parents, children—and technology. And choices are that it is playing now at a school, or in a home, hold, near you. Some see it as the sign of a happy marriage between computers and learning, in which CD-ROMs and the World Wide Web are reimagining lesson plans and homework assignments, and technology is transforming Canadian kids into the problem-solvers of a new century. To others, it is the chronicle of technology as ruthless intruder—a well-controlled, money-hungry brute bent on undermining the authority of parents and teachers, and turning children into antisocial misfits. But whoever the real story—and most would agree the truth lies somewhere in between—it is one that continues to unfold at breakneck speed.

Even as government ministers and school boards slash education spending across the country, they are computerizing classrooms at a dizzying pace—connecting every Alberta school to the Internet, pouring \$40 million into high-tech goodies in Ontario, requiring

That can be an uphill battle—and not one that everybody hopes adults will win. In his popular book *The Children's Machine*, American author Seymour Papert unabashedly celebrates the joys and allure of educational technology. Even video games, he says “teach children what computers are beginning to teach adults—that some forms of learning are fast-paced, massively engaging and rewarding.” To Papert, it is not surprising that “by comparison, school makes many young people sit slow, boring and frankly out of touch.” Teachers and parents unwilling to follow children down the high-tech road, he argues, should at least get out of their way. Power to the students.

Seeing the power of technology—and its almost hypnotic control over children—many parents have simply written off the personal computer as a pedagogical tool. “I have tried with my children, and the educational software just can't compete with the games,” says Malen Durr, a director at the Waterloo, Ont.-based Organization for Quality Education. “How are you going to keep kids down off the Internet once they've seen *Panor*?”

Technology is transforming education at a dizzying pace—but at what cost to quality?

WRED TO LEARN

in Nova Scotia that all new schools be equipped with state-of-the-art computer equipment and laser wiring. Families are investing big-time as well. Over the past decade, the fraction of Canadian households with a computer has tripled, to roughly one-third. In two years, the percentage of homes with modems—devices to the Internet—has almost doubled, to more than 15 per cent.

If the demand for such high-tech goodies is undeniable, so too is their impact on education. Along with the restructuring of classrooms has come a rethinking of teaching and learning, as computers subtly alter power structures, teaching strategies and curricula. And with the revolution in full swing, few adults appear willing to head the resistance—or rather how firm their belief in their own book-based education, or how great their concern that computer worship is eroding the quality of their children's education. “The vast majority of parents feel there aren't enough computers in the schools—particularly at the elementary level where kids are going through their steepest learning curves,” says Wil Liberman, editor of Toronto-based *TRAC* magazine, a bimonthly journal aimed primarily at teachers. “People are deeply afraid their children won't be competitive in the outside world, and they see computer knowledge as critical to their success.”

The real challenge, say many experts, is not to resist such technology, but to guide more computer literacy also encourages the more traditional ways—but children who know how to search the Web will also be able to find their way around a library or a science lab. “There is wonderful high-tech material out there,” says Thérèse Lefebvre, a professor of technology and education at Laval University in Quebec City. “But parents should walk closely with teachers to find programs that give children a sense of overall coherence about what and how they are learning.”

However well armed the computer may be, others are determined to draw a line to the Web. John Lashinger, a writer associate at Toronto's Goldfarb Consultants, notes that recent focus groups conducted by his organization found many parents “are not against computers per se,” but they do link technology for contributing to a slow drift away from the basics. “Most people think computers share at least some of the blame for children's poor grasp of the ‘Three Rs,’” says Lashinger. Rather than wringing their hands, those same focus groups proposed simple solutions: unplug the spell-checker; make kids prove they can perform simple math equations before installing calculators on computer screens. Score one for the olds.

But are these charges as basic even more fundamental than spelling and arithmetic? “I'm the first to say computers are wonderful tools for helping kids learn employability skills, critical skills, analytical skills,” says John Wiens, superintendent of the Seven Oaks School Division in Winnipeg. But society, he argues, has long depended on schools to teach many other things as well. “What about the humanities? What about civics?” asks Wiens. “No technology in the world can show a child how to become a good citizen.”

Whatever computers must do, few deny they will continue to play an enormous role in Canadian schools and homes. The very power they wield, many experts argue, demands that teachers and parents search for sensible and creative ways to incorporate them into the educational agenda. “Yes, we must proceed with caution,” says Lefebvre. “But technology is a fact of life. If we freeze on its demands, we will simply be paralyzed.” Adds Lefebvre: “If that happens, we will almost certainly lose the chance for our kids—and our country—to be in the driver's seat.” Chalk one up for the computers. □



SCHOOL TOOLS

Learning can begin with the click of a mouse

It's that time of year again. The days are growing shorter, the nights are getting cooler—and families are gearing up for another year at school. But while many kids are griffing their teeth at the thought of math tests, spelling bees and science labs, they can perhaps take some solace because the new school year involves homework for many reasons, dads—and teachers. Their mission: to navigate and research a World Wide Web packed with home pages, information guides and resource tools, and to choose from among hundreds of "educational" CD-ROMs, each purporting to be the greatest gift to learning since the invention of the blackboard. A sampling of some of the hottest—and newest—CD-ROMs and Internet sites, designed for a range of audiences from toddlers to high-school seniors:

Fluor-Pride Ready for School Kindergarten Edition (Glowforge). Hey, it's never too early to get a jump on the competition. In "Kidderville," toddlers can loose more than 30 early learning skills—including telling time, reading the alphabet and recognizing words. They do so mostly by playing games at such stops as Randi's Wacky Word Factory and Tick-Tock's Tower. At Clara's Calendar Game, children can create their own personalized calendars while getting lots of education about time, the months and the seasons. As well, some of the drills are cleverly aimed at making kids laze in the broader sense. Try the animated telephone, while decidedly claying, insists children memorize emergency and home telephone numbers—a feature that should help parents at ease in more ways than one as the first day of school looms.

Only's Doree-a-Story (Wonderbond). This is a CD-ROM with attitude—Jamaican attitude, that is—that draws kids into the stories it tells. Only, a hip and funny little girl, narrates the tales, pausing every minute or so to ask for help in sketching such objects



as trees, princesses and submarines. Children's drawings come to life on the screen and are woven into her narrative. Older kids can create their own stories, typing the words and drawing the pictures, using more than 100 different icons and patterns. The program's biggest fault, for all its emphasis on creativity, is that it is impossible for kids to color outside the lines. Heaven forbid,

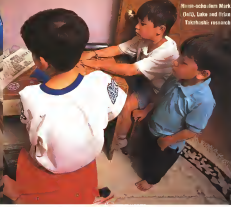
Interactive Math Journey (The Learning Company). Many math programs teach drills. But few concentrate on explaining mathematical concepts. Interactive Math Journey is no exception. Undoubtedly, it is at times rather dryly delivered and slow moving, except that it makes losing the attention of its target group—kids between the ages of 5 and 9. But if they can stick it out, children will likely become better at math. In their journey, students visit 10 colorful, hand-drawn "math lands," and take part in 50 different learning activities that encompass the mathematical concepts patterns and shapes, addition and subtraction, measurement, fractions and multiplication. The package also includes a printed Math Activity Book, plus 100 interlocking cubes and pattern blocks to make learning even more hands-on—a welcome break from the traditional suburban emphasis on chalking to leers.

The Magic School Bus Explores the Rainforest (Mitsubishi). This "interactive science adventure" for six- to 11-year-olds invites players to explore a Costa Rican forest to look for things—ants, monkeys, rain and so on—that the class needs in order to complete

a model of a tropical jungle back home. This being the 1990s, the game does not let players merely rip specimens out of their habitats: kids are equipped with a device called a "bio-cloner," which painlessly reproduces the critters for collection. (Daddy would be proud.) For young children, the controls may be a bit too complex, and at times it is difficult to see what the game is asking the player to do. But the real attraction of the program is the action. Clicking at random points on the various screens can produce clever animated sequences. And beyond the actual puzzle or an impressive array of well-generated, entertaining information about the rain forest, its ecology and animals.

Logic Quest (The Learning Company). Billed as a 3-D learning adventure, Logic Quest is a hodgepodge of themes, styles and elements that are occasionally entertaining—if a bit confusing. The point of the game is to navigate through mazes. In the first maze, players are instructed to find a path to depicting black chess pieces. Behind each corner panel is a part of a robot. When all panels are found and the robot is complete, the player must instruct the robot to find a special key and unlock a door to the next level. For a logic game, the repetitive screen to make precision little screen. But Logic Quest has many features to recommend it: good graphics and animation, a simple interface and a feature that allows players to create their own puzzles. After a while, it manages to become mildly addictive. One nagging question: will the 8- to 11-year-olds it is designed for have the patience to wait that long?

Three-year-old Mark Dally, Luke and Brian. Technical research.



ABC World Reference 3D Atlas 97 (Creative Wanders). There may never be any need to load the kids in the minivan for a summer road trip again. True, there is nothing like the real thing—but this CD-ROM makes a valiant effort. Impressive artwork lets users soar over the Earth like Superman, and space-age music sets the mood for navigating a spinning globe, zooming in for views and tours of countries, cities, lakes and volcanoes. Short videos have an environmental bent, explaining such phenomena as oil pollution, the extinction of species and the fragility of rain forests. And statistical charts provide screens of information that can be endlessly compared and correlated by country. While the program has many enthralling features, users should be prepared to sit with the manual figuring out how it all works takes patience and practice, which may not sit well with young users.

In Nature: Guiding Insects, Birds, Amphibians & Reptiles (Innovative Communications & Entertainment). The Canadian-made junior nature guides are among the best educational software on the market today. A major reason they deserve CD-ROMs and books, providing kids aged 7 to 12 with great adventures through the wildlife kingdom. Each of the three guides comprises a veritable living bestiary, arranged according to the habitats in which the animals live. The lessons themselves have been drawn in detail, with informative descriptions and a good amount of data base provides a list of all species sorted by size. The guide even comes with a printable field kit for recording wildlife observations from the real world. That, in the end, is what truly sets the junior nature guides apart: they encourage kids to get up, get out—and enjoy the wonders of the great outdoors for themselves.

Voyage Through the Solar System 2.0 (Pala/Inkblot Multimedia). Convinced kids of any age to learn more about the final frontier is not an especially hard sell. This CD-ROM makes it that much easier. And it could not be simpler to operate. The voyage begins with a vividly rendered map of the Solar System that invites users to click on planets, moons, comets, and stars and other celestial objects. Subsequent screens provide access to moving 3-D images that explore the inner workings of Saturn's rings, the Earth's atmosphere or Jupiter's moons. Another click leads to more detailed textual information. And an audio feature helps kids—



and adults—presents difficult words like *allochthon*. Two flaws, some of the icons do not make it clear where the next flight is headed, and the New Age quote can be grating. On the other hand, this is a trip to the outer limits.

Logical Journey of the Zoombinis Deluxe (Broderbund). Remember Mr. Potato Head? That is what a Zoombini looks like. But for the most part, the resemblance stops there. This is a challenging, enjoyable CD-ROM that incorporates advanced math and logic for kids aged 9 and up. The "premise" users must ascend to grades to the pre-existing Zoombini Tribe as it faces the evil invading Bloats. Along the way, travelers troop through strange regions inhabited by such creatures as the Thine, Tailored Teds and neonous Puss Eating Tree Frogs. Every new adventure presents a challenge puzzle whose solution requires deductive reasoning. Bloaties choose at any time from four levels of difficulty. Warning: children must have the patience to probe problems.

The 1998 Canadian & World Encyclopedia (McGraw-Hill). There is probably no better marriage of information and technology than an encyclopedia on CD-ROM. The 1998 Canadian & World Encyclopedia impressively marshals a wealth of information about the country—including its history, geography, and social and

artistic culture. Now in its 45th edition, the encyclopedia comes with a new *Lower 7* Times of the Press Activities. For the second year, it also includes the *Maclean's Year in Review*, with more than 500 articles, as well as monthly updates available on the Internet. And like any Canadian reference book worth its salt, the encyclopedia sports French-English and English-French dictionaries. However the sheer volume of information means that CD-ROM will take up a hefty chunk of most computer hard drives.

Microsoft Bookshelf 98 (Microsoft). Bookshelf 98 is a serious research tool—and a very good one. Seamlessly integrated into Microsoft's Windows operating system, it brings with accessible, searchable information. Users can access a virtual library of reference materials, including the *American Heritage Dictionary*, an Internet directory listing more than 6,000 Web sites, a world atlas, thesaurus, word database, dictionary of quotations and an encyclopedia. Some of the entries, including a 350-figure panoramic view of Banff National Park, are stunning. Best of all, the various elements of Bookshelf are logically, smoothly linked, making it easy to say to any student from public school to university and beyond.

CYBER SCHOOL

1x = 1, and 2x = 20, what does y equal? Nancy Dourine, a teacher at North's Weymouth Regional High School in Massachusetts helped a student from Belgium figure out the answer to that question last week. A volunteer at Algebra Online (<http://www.algebraonline.com>), an Internet Web page based in La Jolla, Calif., Dourine fields dozens of questions each week from stumped kids around the world looking for help with their math homework. She is one small part of a growing legion of volunteers—including many practicing and retired teachers—who are hooking up with kids on-line, offering them all sorts of help in everything from astronomy and algebra to Shakespeare and zoology. "A good on-line tutor guides students through their work, rather than simply answering their questions," says Dourine. "I allow them the process just like I would my own class."

Kids love the Internet. And along with services like Algebra Online, there are thousands of Web sites and chat lines designed to help integrate learning into their fun. To maximize educational returns, experts recommend that parents start by investigating the variety of guides designed especially for kids. Among the best are The Canadian Kids Home Page (<http://www.simpac.ca/kids/100/kids.htm>) and "Yeholodges" (<http://www.yeholodges.com>)—the Web-centric version of Yahoo—



Levitt with sons Daniel and Richard: It has to be said, but kids won't like it if it isn't cool.

which have thousands of links arranged by subject and area of interest. From those and other jumping-off points, kids can hook into hours of the Louvre (<http://www.louvre.fr>) or construct a virtual mummy at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto (<http://www.rom.on.ca>). Aspiring "financial whizzes" can get a primer in the stock market at the Young Investor Web site (<http://www.younginvestor.com>). At *Nes Mag*, Canada's Science Magazine for Kids (<http://www.nesmag.com>), younger students can try their hand at answering a "Brain Bumper" question: *Is a lemming where do butterflies lay their eggs when it rains?* Of course, if left unattended, kids are prone to unearth Web sites of questionable educational value. For parents seeking guid-

ance through the mass of offerings, such American-based monitoring organizations as SafeStart and Family Friendly Site give their seal of approval with icons placed at the top of Web pages whose owners have submitted them for vetting. One of the few such Canadian monitoring services is operated by Howard Levitt, a Winnipeg father of two, who maintains Howard's Links 4 Kids (<http://www.groceries.com/HowardL4Kids/der.htm>) on his home computer. Sites that pass muster on Levitt's home page must also get the nod from his sons, Daniel, 8, and Richard, 7. "It has to be safe to make parents happy," says Levitt. "But kids won't look at it if it isn't cool."

By the way, y = 2

SANDRA FAHMAN

Math for the Real World (Dorland). Call it a brave attempt to vanquish a generation of math-phobic teenagers with their threads tied sitting in math class. This CD-ROM does a good job of showing kids how math skills apply to problems that aren't confined to the everyday life—or at least the everyday lives of rock stars. To start the program, users join a band and head out on a 15-city tour. Throughout their travels, they are presented with problems that have mathematical solutions. Example: "Your guitar just broke. Calculate sale prices and percentage discounts so you can snag the cheapest replacement." As a reward for making sound math decisions, students are given the opportunity to create their own music videos. And throughout their tour, they can join with the band's better half. Other within-environment are added to grab attention—this program rocks.

ChemLab (J. Hoffmann + Associates Inc.). ChemLab should get an A for re-creating the experience of chemistry class—the confusing complexity of formulas and equipment, the tedious repetition of predictable experiments, the mind-numbing boredom. The program forces the user into daily monotonous tasks, where would-be chemists can follow the steps of pre-set experiments or start messing around with chemicals. Either way, the results are underwhelming. Fun it is not. But as ChemLab is a learning tool. Well, there is a period to fiddle, and much of molecular is 3-D. And the program comes with an on-line textbook—on, not a swivel-up interactive guide, but General Chemistry, looking and reading just like the real thing. In other words, what ChemLab offers is what students would encounter—in a more real and engaging way—in a high school chemistry course. Question: why would they want the CD?

BodyWorks 6.0 (The Learning Company). Wondering what exactly a spleen does? Ever been called a pig? The program means to tell what's what. Ever wonder what it means? BodyWorks 6.0 has the answers. This is an encyclopedia of knowledge about bones and muscles, diseases and digestion. Best of all, the information—with realistic models of body parts that can be related to give news from all sides—is stunningly rendered in gorgeous graphics. The sheer number of features is impressive: guided tours of the main physiological systems, from the skeletal to the nervous to the lymphatic; 33 video "lectures" from a severe-looking medical instructor; and a point-and-click link to a World Wide Web site that features current on-line news. Parents may be happy to know the program includes a censorship option to prevent pre-adolescents from seeing the naughty bits.

Shakespeare Theater: Macbeth (J. Hoffmann + Associates Inc.). While scholars say the works of William Shakespeare are silver grimoires, most teenagers could probably come up with other descriptions. Now, TheaterLab's CD-ROM primer of *Macbeth* promises to make the Bard accessible. The heart of this Canadian-produced program is an annotated, somewhat bewildered, two-page précis of the Scottish play, read by program creator Michael Mills. By clicking on icons as *Mills* talks, users can call up printed information about Macbeth in action and history, and about day today life in Elizabethan times. There are a few glitches—namely, some erroneous juxtapositions. But all the extras—including a polished full-text version of the play, complete with stage directions—turn this program into a real learning tool.

JOE CHIDLEY, VICTOR POWYER
and SANDRA FAHMAN

THE WEB OF WONDERS

The Internet provides links to thousands of educational activities and services. A sampling of top sites:

• **Canada Schoolnet** (<http://www.schoolnet.ca>) is a national educational networking system that offers information, learning tools and chat lines for teachers and students.



• **SchoolNet Digital Collections** (<http://www.schoolnet.ca/digitalcollections/>) provides photos, literature and artwork from the holdings of Canadian archives, libraries, museums, businesses, labor unions and other organizations.

• **Cyber Palat** (<http://www.cyberpalat.com>) is an on-line Canadian system, brings students together with professionals to talk about working in the real world.

• **Canadian Children's Museum** (<http://www.ccmc.muse.ca>) provides an interactive tour of exhibits and displays.

• **Global Data** (<http://www.worldwide-nl-mvnl.com/global.htm>) has facts and figures about the industry, geography and climate of over 200 countries.

• **Kidstart for Kids and Teens** (<http://www.kidstart.com>) provides links to major libraries, as well as to such reference materials as dictionaries, atlases and almanacs.



• **Children's Music Web** (<http://www.childrensmusic.com>) offers kids audio clips, and on-screen music, of popular children's songs, and is home to Popscapes, a magazine featuring music reviews by parents and kids.

• **Knowledge Adventure Encyclopedias** (<http://www.knowledgeadventure.com>) links kids search for thousands of articles using key words.

• **National Geographic Society** (<http://www.national-geographic.com>) hosts educational trivia games on everything from earthquakes to blimps to the New York City subway system.



• **The Smithsonian** (<http://www.si.edu>), the world's largest complex of museums, located in Washington, presents on-line tours of hundreds of historical and scientific exhibits.

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The Lacava touch

A Montrealer changes the way newspapers look

Lucie Lacava sits on the prequel-wood floor of her small office peering over a box of treasured old newspapers. "There are some real auditors," she says, gingerly removing a faded yellow 1952 copy of *The Toronto Daily Star* from a plastic bag. The slightly tan paper carries a fringed story about King George VI's death with the headline: "His weary Queen comes home." Lacava admires the typography, but quickly points to a bright red headline on the otherwise sober black-and-white paper: "I'm not about this," she declares. The well-described "newspaper architect" knows what she is talking about. At 38, Lacava is one of Canada's pre-eminent newspaper designers. Recently, she sparsely decorated office in her suburban Montreal home—she has since moved to space in Old Montreal—was cluttered with stacks of newspapers, ranging from *The Scotsman* to the *San Diego Union-Tribune*. But it's old papers, with their variations to detail and what she describes as



Lacava: scanning papers to "come up with something quite unique"

"beautifully crafted" typography that hold a special lure for Lacava. "Scenarists," she says, "I just look for excitement."

Lacava seems to have no trouble finding it—or work, for that matter. She has re-designed or helped make over two dozen Canadian newspapers, including *The Gazette* and *Le Devoir* in Montreal, *Le Soleil* in Quebec City, *The Ottawa Citizen* and *The Montreal Star*. Her award-winning work spans decades, thanks to her elegance, detail and unbridled design.

The sub-politico Lacava spends much of her time with her eyes glued to a large Power Macintosh screen. Typing with two fingers, she clicks the mouse, experimenting with different type for a new section banner for *The Windsor Star*'s entertainment pages. "I try to limit the number of fonts I use," says Lacava. That restrained approach

has reaped big dividends. In 1995, she re-designed *Le Devoir* using only two fonts for the entire paper. In doing so, Lacava banished the trend of many newspapers, which "have gone just crazy" since the introduction of the Macintosh computer, says Ron Benson, director of visual journalism at the Florida-based Poynter Institute for Media Studies. "Lucie was one of the first to step back and say, 'We don't need all this,'" Lacava's Boris rubbed *Le Devoir* several months from the Society of Newspaper Design in 1994, an international organization with 3,000 members, including the prestigious Best of Show prize. Lacava left the paper soon after to work to set up her own business. "I could be the SNO poster child," she says, laughing.

For all her jokes, whether she is brought in to help a newspaper's design team or give carte blanche to overhaul a paper's look, La-

cava—a graphic design graduate of Concordia University in Montreal—does her homework. She voraciously devours the art newspaper's history to learn about its personality, a practice often discouraged by clients. "They're afraid I'm going to come back with a retro-looking paper," says Lacava. She does, in fact, mine some ideas from old newspaper designs, sometimes finding items no longer readily available and updating them to "come up with something quite unique." For the recent *Ottawa and Greater* make-over, Lacava suggested reworking old versions of the newspaper's mastheads, which ran across the top of the front page. "She just understands what will work," says Alan Allwright, editor-in-chief of *The Gazette*, where Lacava landed her first job in 1982 after a five-hour assignment illustrating shoe ads. Hello Montreal! "She has a wonderful talent."

Lacava's input has helped turn *The Gazette* and the *Ottawa* into more serious-looking papers: the redesigned papers use less color and have switched to "acid" fonts, which Lacava thinks are easier to read and closer. She sees it as a welcome change from the colorful, graphic-laden newspapers, inspired by the USA Today example of the 1980s, when dukes tried to attract people who didn't normally read newspapers. "I think now we're doing the opposite," says Lacava, a consultant who has a contract with the 35-member Southern Newspaper Group. "We're trying to appeal to readers who love to read newspapers." She is one of them, although Lacava doesn't read like most people—she also doesn't read the details and "margins." "It's intriguing the paper as I read it," she says.

Next, Lacava hopes to expand her client base internationally. Worried his accountant Nick Venetoli (with two young children, she can do most of her work from Montreal and read papers by modem. She is currently helping to create a new look for *The Vancouver Sun*, a redesign that makes as much as half. It is not surprising that the multilingual Lacava, who was born in Italy and settled in Canada with her parents and brother when she was 15, believes her work lies between European and North American styles. "I love classic-looking newspapers," she says. That is apparent from glance at newspapers where many papers bear Lacava's touch.

BRENDA BRANSWELL in Montreal

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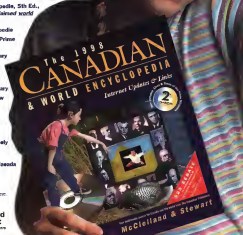
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Ethyl Corp.'s plant near Saratoga Springs, Utah

Environment

Paying the polluters?

For more than a year now, behind closed doors in a basement room of a back-office Park office building, officials from Canada and 28 other countries have been negotiating a proposed Multilateral Agreement on Investment that has sparked heated debate even before the deal has been signed. MLI proponents in Canada and the United States say it would be a boon to foreign investment and a healthy extension of North American Free Trade Agreement provisions outlawing discrimination against foreign investors. U.S. Trade Representative Jeff Leach says the treaty would "foster stability and encourage market liberalization." But critics argue the focus is both on protecting and promoting trade through national sovereignty and other aspects of the public interest—particularly the environment. According to New York City and Toronto-based trade lawyer Barry Appleton, who is also author of the reference book *Navigating NAFTA*: "Rather than have the public-spays-principle, you now have *Pay the polluter*."

The proposed MLI is a broad set of rules that would clearly prohibit governments from imposing certain restrictions on foreign companies and investors. Experts say that the rules could give foreign compa-

nies the right to seek compensation from governments, regardless of whether or not their activities were harmful to local environments. And while NAFTA commits Canada to legal obligations to its two continental neighbors—the United States and Mexico—the MLI would bind Canada to members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, covering

A new treaty could bring investors—and controversy

of the world's 23 leading economies. "In certain the governments don't fully appreciate their obligations under NAFTA," says Appleton, "and now they are on the verge of taking these obligations further."

Case in point: as American corporation that Appleton is representing recently launched the first-ever NAFTA-based claim against Ottawa for what it charges are violations of its treaty rights. The action is based on legislation enacted in April designed to limit the use of MMT, a controver-

sial gasoline additive suspected of damaging sensitive pollution control systems. At first, environmentalists treated their hard-won victory, but the celebration soured when the manufacturer of MMT, Ethyl Corp., of Richmond, Va., fought back with a NAFTA investment claim directly against Ottawa for at least \$140 million. The company, which brands MMT as a plant near Saratoga, Ont., says Ottawa is violating its NAFTA right to immediate compensation for expropriation legislation that hinders its operations—in effect, the company says, illegal expropriation. (Before free trade, a U.S. company seeking redress for expropriation would have had to sue through Washington to challenge Ottawa on a bilateral level.) And if the MLI proceeds, environmentalists warn Canadian taxpayers could find themselves at the wrong end of a raft of legal actions ranging from foreign consumer disputes over zoning changes to challenges on conservation resources and limits on logging.

Under the MLI, as well, Canada could easily be embroiled in international trade disputes for introducing new measures to protect its environment, says Steven Shrybman, a Vancouver-based environmental lawyer. "The MLI," says Shrybman, a former senior policy adviser to the Ontario gov-

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ENVIRONMENT

ement, "has the potential to create a hurdle over the willingness of governments to even contemplate regulatory measures." And while Canadians publicly debated the merits of NAFTA before it took effect in 1994, there has been no such airing of the proposed trade treaty's issues. "The government will blind everybody to the MAI," says Appleton, "and only then will we all see how it works."

The MAI was originally to have been signed by industrialized nations last May, but as the complex negotiations lagged, the ratification was delayed until May, 1998. In April, then Trade Minister Art Eggleton told Parliament "it was too early" to publicly debate the MAI. The current minister, Sergio Marchi, who was sworn in last June, was unavailable to comment on the proposed treaty.

The lack of public discussion, combined with the complexity of the 175-page MAI draft, means that most Canadians are still in the dark about its contents. Those who do understand it say they doubt the final version of the MAI will provide anything more than token environmental protections. Canada's principal MAI negotiator, Bill Dymond, says those negotiations are still ongoing. He admits there will be trade-offs, although he promises the environment will not be among them. "Are we going to achieve protection with the treaty?" asks Dymond, then answers, "No."

Central to the MAI's investment protection—and the key concern of environmentalists—is the NAFTA-like provision that allows foreign corporations like Ethyl to sue Ottawa directly on the basis of federal, provincial or municipal laws. Worst, say critics, while the three NAFTA countries can withdraw from that treaty with six months' notice, the MAI proposes a 20-year lock-in.

NAFTA and MAI provisions could prove particularly destructive when it comes to reforestation, acknowledges lawyer Appleton. Outlining a worst-case scenario, he envisions a continental landrush from a gold mine in Canada, owned by a U.S. company. While NAFTA regulations would not prohibit Ottawa from seizing the property, he says, the treaty's provisions on compensation would require the government to compensate the company fully and immediately, regardless of whether it had polluted Canada's pollution laws. In such a case, under NAFTA—and potentially under the MAI—it is a company's advantage to be foreign-owned rather than Canadian, says Appleton.

In his example, if the mine had been Canadian-owned, he notes, the company would have had no right to compensation under NAFTA, and Canadian courts have never awarded compensation for similar scenarios carried out under Canadian law.

What is more, says Appleton, while Canada could still levy fines on a polluting foreign firm even while entering its assets, Ottawa could easily be paying more in compensation than it takes in penalties. A U.S. mining

and governments do not have treaty rights to sue corporations on the public's behalf. Says Shrybman: "The rules of natural justice and due public process that have been a feature of Canadian and American courts for over 100 years are suspended when it comes to this litigation."

For now, at least, the government appears unprepared by the laws over the Ethyl MAI and the Ethyl case, now in its early stages.

"The question is, will the Ethyl Corp. claim be upheld by the trade tribunals?" says Canadian negotiator Dymond. Besides, he adds, Canada and most of the OECD nations already support the same legal principles of protecting foreign investment that are proposed for the MAI. "We're not breaking new ground here," he says. And while critics say there is a difference between legal theory and signing a treaty that could actually force the government to compromise foreign policies and affect environmental decision-making, supporters argue the MAI is an important step toward greater prosperity. "Why should national boundaries prevent people from making business decisions that are to their mutual advantage?" asks University of Toronto international trade law professor Robert Howse. Still, Howse acknowledges that some areas should be protected, and the proposed treaty is intentionally designed to make it harder for governments to impose production regulations on foreign business. "It is intended," he says, "to shape and constrain domestic policies that limit foreign access."

The details of how the environment is ultimately addressed in the MAI are still subject to change. In fact, OECD negotiators are "exploring ways of how the MAI can be implemented to support sustainable development," says U.S. trade representative Laura Appleton, despite his criticism, agrees there are good reasons to provide international protections for investments. But he questions the federal government's ability to protect the public interest while meeting obligations under the proposed MAI. "Do not that you examine can't act to protect these things," he says, "but if they do, they have to pay." For now, Canadians can only imagine where Ottawa's priorities will be if it is forced to choose between protecting the environment or compensating a polluting foreign investor.

RUTH AMMONSON

There has been a marked lack of public discussion



Shrybman, fear that the treaty could create 'a huge cliff'

company found guilty of polluting could be fined. But under NAFTA, and so far in the MAI, the company is free to claim damages for the full worth of the gold mine it had to shut down as a result of government action.

The dispute-resolution process for cases like Ethyl's is also provoking alarm. "There are no obligations on companies under these agreements," says Appleton, "only obligations on governments." Under both NAFTA and the final MAI, an international tribunal of trade experts—whose judgments cannot be appealed—enforces the rule book. Environmental, health and safety considerations may be taken into account, but they have little bearing on the outcome. The arbitration process is closed to the public,

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SEARLE

Small steps lead to great strides.



NICOTINE SYNDROME

The elderly Beijing resident puffing on a Chinese-made cigarette is just one of his country's 300 million smokers, about one in four traditional Chinese smokers. Anti-smoking efforts here so far had little impact in a nation where an estimated 1.6 trillion cigarettes are consumed annually. This week, anti-smoking campaigns, lawyers and medical experts meet in Beijing for the 10th World Conference on Tobacco or Health. Conference topics include anti-smoking litigation and the tobacco industry's drive to expand sales in developing countries.

Round 1 to implant victims

American using the giant Dow Chemical Co. over whose breast implants was a major victory when a court case determined that the firm knowingly concealed information about the implants' health risks. A New Orleans jury, in the first class action against the Midland, Mich.-based firm, also ruled that Dow Chemical failed to adequately test silicone before it was used in implants. In the next phase, the trial will decide whether eight women—representing 3,800 others—were injured by the implants. Thousands of women have complained that they suffered health problems, including immune-system disorders, because of the implants. Classrooms targeted Dow Chemical, a joint-owner of implant manufacturer Dow Corning, after that company filed for bankruptcy protection against such suits in 1995. More than one million women in the United States and about 100,000 in Canada had silicone breast implants before regulatory agencies banned them in 1992. Since then, thousands of lawsuits have been launched in both countries against firms that manufactured silicone breast implants.



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Laxative trouble

Some laxative manufacturers have pulled their products off the market, while makers of other leading brands are defending their ingredients following studies that suggest a widely used laxative chemical may give a cancer risk. After U.S. studies showed that rats and mice developed cancer after consuming phenolphthalein, Health Canada in July gave manufacturers of about 50 laxatives using the chemical 90 days to submit evidence that their products are safe—or take them off the market. So far, only a few companies, including Monobouge, Oxy-bond Novartis Canada Inc.—manufacturer of the popular laxative Ecolax—have made submissions to Health Canada. Some others have stopped sending new shipments to residents. Health Canada officials said a final decision on the laxative issue would be made by the end of September. Many other widely used laxative brands do not contain phenolphthalein.

Manufacturing skin

A skin skin-like tissue that is produced in laboratories from human cells could prove a boon to about 100,000 Canadian diabetics who suffer from hard-to-heal foot ulcers. The new product, approved by Health Canada, is called CompuDerm and manufactured by Smith & Nephew Inc. of Liching, Que. Because of poor blood circulation, diabetics frequently suffer from chronic foot ulcers, which are non-

nally treated with amputation, by removing diseased skin from around the ulcer and sometimes by grafting skin from other parts of the patient's body. But some diabetic foot ulcers do not heal, leading to about 3,000 amputations per year in Canada. According to the company, foot ulcers treated during clinical trials with the product had a 60-per-cent higher success rate, than those treated by conventional methods.

A drug to treat Alzheimer's

The first of a new class of drugs designed to treat Alzheimer's disease symptoms, including memory loss, has been approved for use by Health Canada. Officials of Kirtland, Que.-based Phaz

Canada Inc. said that the drug Aricept—approved earlier in the United States and Europe—lessens some symptoms in mild to moderate cases of Alzheimer's by preventing an enzyme from destroying the brain chemical acetylcholine. The Toronto-based Alzheimer Society of Canada welcomed approval of the new drug, but noted that Aricept is not a cure—and it

does not affect the underlying progressive nature of the disease. About 10 new drugs aimed at treating Alzheimer's symptoms are currently undergoing clinical trials or awaiting approval in Canada and the United States. About 200,000 Canadians are afflicted by Alzheimer's disease, and the number is expected to grow to half a million by the year 2050.



Bell

Pennies from heaven

BY DIANE TURBIDE

Perhaps the best way to measure how successful has changed. Since Moloney is in vogue, her readers, in the driveway of her modest home on Main-Island Island in Northern Ontario, is a slightly decrepit, 45m, blue and white truck, with just enough room for two people to stand. There, Moloney completed her second novel, *A Dry Spell*, a supernatural thriller about a rainmaker and a woman banker trying to save a drought-stricken North Dakota town. The book, due out on Sept. 8, was bought by Random House/Delacorte in the United States and Doubleday in Canada. Van Cleave's production company scooped up the film rights, and publishing contracts have been struck in 13 other countries. It all adds up to a lot of money—worth about \$2.5 million. Now, Moloney does her writing in a \$9.5 m, gleaming silver Astra—complete with shower, dining and wooden deck—which is parked on a piece of land she owns a 10-minute drive away. But in terms of conspicuous consumption, that's about the biggest thing on a short list of luxury goods that Moloney has acquired since her windfall. "I don't think I have a concept of how much money that is," says Moloney, 35, who notes that a 10-year period of single motherhood left her with thrifty habits. "I mean, you're talking to someone who once thought, after getting a land grant, that her life would be complete if she could just get a blender."

Decisive and laconic, Moloney rolls her own cigarettes and jiggers her conversations with comic hyperbole and wry asides, often at her own expense. It's a pace that permeates her weekly column, known as "Tummy Girl," which she still writes for four Northern Ontario newspapers. She often uses her family life as fodder, portraying it as barely controlled domestic chaos, although she rarely names husband Mick, 43, nor son a Josh, 16, and Michael, 2. And she is proud that despite the recent upheaval in her life, she has raised only two colons. "I was in a cafe a while ago and watched a woman open the [Montreal] *Examiner* and read my column first," recalls Moloney. "I kept nudging my

Moloney: a big advance and a Tom Cruise film option are nice, but life goes on

girlfriend and telling her, 'First—she read my column first!'"

Moloney lives in Little Current (population 1,570), the largest town on Lac Seul Manitoulin Island at the north end of Lake Huron, where she arrived in August, 1990. She was following the man she had fallen in love with in 1986. When Mick Moloney, an energy-efficiency contractor who had been offered a job near Manitoulin, "I came here for six months, and just stayed," the author says. "There it here I like knowing my neighbors and seeing the same faces on the street. I like knowing what's happening this weekend and town. I like things to stay the same." Only half-joking, she adds. "I don't like personal growth—you can write that down."

But Moloney's life contradicts that statement. Born Susan Schelbott and raised in Winnipeg, the middle child of three, she



A horror novel about a rainmaker strikes gold

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BOOKS

has been writing stories for as long as she can remember. "As a kid, I used to watch TV programs and then rewrite the plots into story form," she says. Those early forays into prose were at least partly a refuge from a difficult childhood. Her mother (died of cancer when Susan was 7, and died four years later). As a teenager, Susan became estranged from her father, Dan, who owns a trucking firm. When she was 18, she became a single mother.

In her 20s, she worked at odd jobs, from waitressing to editing an arts magazine, and took courses at the University of Winnipeg and Red River Community College. And she wrote fiction, usually after Josh was asleep. Her work was more than a touch of the macabre: her first novel was a horror story about widows—and was returned unopened by the New York City publishing house she mailed it to. A Vancouver editor, however, liked it, and she moved to the city. And it is, in retrospect, quite strange that Anne Rice had done blood just better. Asked about her penchant for the supernatural, Meloy replies, "I just have this dark dream! I like the delicious thrill of being frightened, the quick hit of adrenaline." She remembers being fascinated with *Zelig* from the Cryptic comic books and the *Loch Ness* monster as a child; now, she never misses an episode of *The X-Files*. At the same time, Meloy admits to being a complete control freak. "I think's easy, I have to sleep with the lights on, if I sleep in a room that's not mine, I have to have a nightstand in my room bigger than usual. I've asked to go to the room and check. In the next, I'm already reading the previous night's

Once on Manitoulin, she began *Barrows Falls*, a horror novel set in a northern Canadian town of the same name. She did at first, being dependent on Mick for money, and tried harder to get published. A few sample chapters convinced Toronto agent Helen Heller to take on Mulroney as a client, and Key Porter Books released the novel in 1985. *Barrows Falls* achieved modest sales, and helped pave the way for *A Day Spent*. "I think all writers learn a great deal about their craft with their first published book," says Heller. "And Susan applied all those lessons with great success in *A Day Spent*. We sold it on the basis of only a proposal, three chapters and an outline."

Al Dry Spell is a communique and past horror under. The prodigious inaudience Tom Keadley, a taciturn loner who wanders the United States telling his wry views on man and nature to various drought-stricken towns. Meanwhile, Karen Grange, a bookish woman recently posted off to Goodlands, N.D., is witnessing the decay of her small agricultural town after four years without rain. Just as she is becoming accepted into the community, she finds herself forced to forego on more and more family farms. Desperate, she contacts Keadley, whom she once saw featured in a TV news film. Keadley's supernatural abilities are slowly tested when he comes up against a malign presence in Goodlands that threatens to destroy him. Grange and, possibly, the whole town.

With its prime struggle between good and evil, its psychic elements mingling with the mundane, and its detailed exploration of small-town life, *A Dry Spell* evokes many Stephen King novels. The companion thriller *Melrose* "He brought horror writing to the mainstream," she says, "particularly with his early books, where the writing was tight, the characters were strong, and the stories were so original. With *The Shining* my favorite, he turned the haunted-house story into something brand new."

Why did she set her own book in the United States? One reason might be that novels with Canadian settings are usually a hard sell in the U.S. market. But Molloy does more wistfully concern, "I blame Margaret Laurence," she declares. "She said that you can't write about a place until after you've left it. Winnipeg is still too close for me to write about—it's still home in many ways—even though I'm settled here." Meanwhile, Molloy says she chose North Dakota because of its frontier-ness when she was growing up.



Moloney with authors: [Must not see Josh. Emily is still pregnant](#)

'I like the delicious thrill of being frightened'

That dawn-to-dusk attitude will stand her in good stead as she prepares for the hyperactivity of a U.S. and Canadian back-to-back, part of a \$400,000 marketing campaign to promote A Dry Dry! Mobility. "My father is taking her family along for some of the stages, but she is worried about leaving son Michael for a whole week at one point, even though he will be with his nanny, step-brother and father."

With Moloney's entry into the pop-fiction fast lane, *Assaulted* Mick has become her manager, keeping track of the money and helping to juggle the family schedule. He now has more time to devote to his rock band, The Love Handies—"the name's caused some controversy among my newer, younger members," he says drily—which plays around Maui. And he now roams the island on the powerful new Honda Vallyrie motorcycle that his wife bought him. Meanwhile, he says the family has no place to leave the island. "We're not the average, common kind of people."

Susan agrees—and balks at the “magickian-to-the-oh-of-God!” crysno that inevitably surfaces whenever the media focuses on her. A typical day, she insists, is much the same as it was before. Now at work on her next novel, she keeps a regular schedule for writing, setting herself a target of 2,500 words a day, and arrives home when Michael awakes from his afternoon nap. “Yes, my life is so much better in so many ways,” she says. But the things that sustained her before her success—family and writing—are still important. “The good things don’t change.” □

in Winnipeg. Grand Forks, N.D., was a cheap holiday spot. "It's close to Winnipeg and the terrain is so similar that I could write about it without being inhibited."

Another element in the book is taken from Moloney's experience. Through friends, she once met a woman who was a bona fide shopaholic and ended up in jail after she had embroiled to finance her extravagant purchases. "Her house was literally full of stuff she'd bought—clothes, housewares, every thing—with the price tags still on months later," Moloney writes. "I was really afraid of it, and you only get to wear one outfit all the time." But, in fact, Moloney writes sensibly in *A Dry Spell*, connecting heroine Karen to a deep psychological anxiety: "I know the want and a need," says Moloney.

altitude will stand her in good stead as she leads a U.S. and Canadian book tour, part of a campaign to promote *A Dry April*. Moloney sang for some of the stops, but she is worried about a whole week at sea port, even in her cozy, step-leather and other

With Moloney's entry into the pop-fiction fast lane, *Assaulted* Mick has become her manager, keeping track of the money and helping to juggle the family schedule. He now has more time to devote to his rock band, The Love Handies—"the name's caused some controversy among my newer, younger members," he says drily—which plays around Maui. And he now roams the island on the powerful new Honda Vallyrie motorcycle that his wife bought him. Meanwhile, he says the family has no place to leave the island. "We're not the average, common kind of people."

Susan agrees—and balks at the “magickian-to-the-oh-of-God!” crysno that inevitably surfaces whenever the media focuses on her. A typical day, she insists, is much the same as it was before. Now at work on her next novel, she keeps a regular schedule for writing, setting herself a target of 2,500 words a day, and arrives home when Michael awakes from his afternoon nap. “Yes, my life is so much better in so many ways,” she says. But the things that sustained her before her success—family and writing—are still important. “The good things don’t change.” □

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Cocaine's captives

A master chronicles a Colombian nightmare

NEWS OF A KIDNAPPING

By Gabriel García Márquez
(London House, \$29.95, \$8.95)

One autumn evening in 1990, in Bogotá, Marina Pachón and her sister-in-law, Beatriz Villanueva, were being driven home from work by Pachón's chauffeur when their lives spun into nightmare. Two cars suddenly cut off their Renault, forcing it to stop. With chilling swiftness, gunmen stepped up to the vehicle, killed the chauffeur, forced the women into their own vehicles and drove off. Pachón and Villanueva had just become parents in a marriageless, long-term cohabitation between the Colombian government and Pablo Escobar, the head of the country's notorious international drug trade. The two women—they both worked for a government agency managing the country's firms—were valuable to Escobar because they had strong family connections in several politicians who had waged war against the drug trade. They were at the beginning of an ordeal that would last six months—in a cold, windowless room where the lights were never turned off and their guards' guns were ever at the ready.

Pachón and Villanueva are among the 10 kidnapping victims whose stories are chronicled in *News of a Kidnapping*, by Colombian Nobel laureate Gabriel García Márquez. Best known for such fiction masterpieces as *One Hundred Years of Solitude* and *Love in the Time of Cholera*, Villanueva is also a journal of extraordinary powers. In *News of a Kidnapping*, he has woven a complex narrative that focuses on all of the victims as well as several of the country's leading politicians, the victims' families and Escobar himself—endowing their tale with a thriller-like momentum. There is a price to be paid, however, for his emphasis on narrative drive: the book is short on analysis, and the deeper causes and social ramifications of Colombia's drug wars are left in the background. As well, the poor people of the slums of Medellín—the city of 1.6 million, where the drug trade has drawn many lost soldiers and veterans—are just bit players in a drama that, by and

large, focuses on Colombia's upper classes. Still, on a bad day the risk can add as much as the poor, and for a gripping account of how a state of near lawlessness can impact on a few privileged people, *News of a Kidnapping* is unforgettable.

Márquez does sketch in enough about the state of his country at the beginning of the decade to give the kidnappings a context. You can't rely on drug wars but also the terrorism of various leftwing guerrilla groups,



Márquez giving the author a thriller-like momentum

Colombians endured dozens of political assassinations, including bombings that killed hundreds of innocent citizens. In Medellín alone, in the first two months of 1992, there were 1,300 murders, an average of 20 a day. Two thousand people in that city's slums were reportedly working for Escobar, eager to claim the bonuses he offered for the deaths of policemen (they got five million pesos—about \$8,000 Cdn—far every dead officer). And meanwhile, the police themselves killed slum boys indiscriminately, on the theory that they were probably waiting for Escobar.


In such a situation, it seems remarkable that all but two of the hostages survived. But Escobar was holding Pachón, Villanueva and the others for a very specific purpose. Hounded mercilessly by the country's security forces, he was exhausted and needed to surrender—but only if the government would guarantee he would not be extradited to the United States, where he was high on the wanted list. Other kidnaps in the drug trade had suffered this fate and been given sentences totalling hundreds of years. So Escobar was using the bloody victims to lever the government towards an official policy of non-extradition. And in the end, he seems to have been completely successful: though ultimately he was killed by police in 1993, after escaping from his Colombian prison.

The victims watched this political drama being played out on television. They also watched special programs—a great source of hope to them—in which their families wished them well. But the TV was not always a beneficent presence. Some of the guards watched pornographic movies on the VCR, and bragged of the rapes they had committed. The atmosphere was terrifying, but none of the victims was sexually assaulted. They were, however, chained to beds, unable to talk in whispers, verbally threatened and fed meagre meals of lentils. Little wonder many of them spiralled into depression and ill health. Yet all, to some degree, got to know their guards—mostly poor young men Márquez believes were in desperate need of positive parental figures. All the hostages feed on small details that helped keep them sane. Marina Masquero, an elderly woman held with Pachón and Villanueva, became obsessed with giving herred maniocuts.

Márquez's descriptions of Monroy's murder is one of the most gripping passages in the book. Told she was being moved to another hiding place, she was swept with premonitions that she was going to be killed. She prayed fervently, fled her suite and finally mustered enough dignity to arrange her hair and walk into the room. Later her body was found in a field north of Bogotá. Her face had been destroyed by six bullets, but her hands were youthful, graceful.

Márquez has a tendency to cast the principles of his tale—people such as Villanueva has been, politician Alberto, who was killed and his release a hero's feat—though they were larger than life figures from one of his own (imagined) novels. And yet his poetic exaggerations may not be all that he's lost the mark, for it is clear from *News of a Kidnapping* that the extreme evil endured by his country also called up courage and recollections of an exceptional land.


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




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
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Media

Radio renovation

Michael Enright is in a state of high anxiety. And also, better mood of late for the 54-year-old veteran of CBC Radio. He sits in the open-plan lounge on the 18th floor of the corporation's Toronto headquarters, trademark bow tie, relaxed, nervously waving the others off. Players cigarettes and chairs smoking the result. "Jump?" he asks, repeating a question. "You bet." After a long, broad, impassive pause, he adds with a snicker. "It's the show. There's a whole bunch of people who are expecting big things to happen when we launch it. I just hope they also realize that it's still a work in progress. We've got a lot of talent, a lot of trial and error before we get it right."

If Enright is suffering from a case of pre-performance jitters at the moment, it will come as no surprise to any of his colleagues at the CBC. For the show he is talking about, of course, is the widely anticipated program the corporation has reluctantly christened *This Morning*. It is scheduled to air for the first time on Sept. 1, with the seasoned Enright and newcomer David Bouché as co-hosts. Both have their work cut out for them. Not only must they fill the large shoes vacated by Peter Gosselin, host of the late, much-lamented *Morningdrive*, but they must serve as the on-air voices of the corporation's new flagship vehicle, the centerpiece in CBC Radio's ongoing attempt to re-launch, re-structure and reposition itself after years of deep and painful budget cuts.

The corporation took the first steps along that road this week, announcing new names for the English service's two networks, nowcasts on the radio and 17 new shows for the fall season. "We want to get the point across that CBC Radio has not just a terrific past, but also a great future," said Harold Roddick, vice president of English radio, as he unveiled the changes during an elaborate daylight ceremony organized by a professional firm of event coordinators.

Beginning in September, CBC Radio and CBC Stereo will become CBC Radio One—

"News And more"—and CBC Radio Two—"Classics And beyond." Radio One will switch its past year from the AM dial in Montreal and Toronto, joining Radio Two on the FM dial in both of those cities. The moves will clear up long-standing AM reception difficulties. They also herald the advent of even higher quality reception in the future, when

CBC prepares to launch two overhauled services



Enright (left), Bouché joins and last-minute tinkering with *This Morning*

digital transmission finally arrives. Experimental digital transmitters, providing wide-area with perfect reception and near CD-quality sound, are already on air in Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and Vancouver. Regular digital transmissions are expected to begin in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver by early 1998, even though it may be at least a decade before the majority of the CBC's listeners are equipped with digital receivers.

In the meantime, the corporation is attempting to hold onto and even expand its

audience with a host of new programs now that—on Roddick's words—"the budget cutting is largely finished." Over the past three years, CBC Radio's annual budget has been trimmed by 50 per cent, to this year's \$160 million, down from \$120 million in 1995. The fall schedule reflects CBC Radio's new image, with the disappearance of programs that had once achieved almost institutional status—*Morningside*, *Sunday Morning*, *Gosselin*, *Glimmer's Afternoon*, *Repeat Canadian Air Dates* and *Douglas Edwards*.

Some familiar voices will remain, however. The popular Shirley Rogers, a frequent stand-in for Peter Gosselin on *Morningside*, returns in a newly expanded role as host of *Radio Two's Take Five*—five hours every weekday of classical music and newscasts. Also on *Radio Two*, Eric Trevisan, a former CBC staffer who spent the past six years at Minnesota Public Radio, returns to host *The Music Room* on weekday mornings, *Radio Two's Performance* weekday evenings and *Gosselin* weekends—all programs aimed at fans of classical music.

Over at *Radio One*, Lister Sinclair returns to host *Adrian*, Mary Lou Finkin moves into Enright's old post as *As It Happens* and Bill Richardson takes over Vicki Gaberucci's afternoon drive-in host at the brand new *Richardson's Roundup*, billed as a mix of music, conversation and humor.

But the pivot around which all of this new—and not so new—programming will revolve is *This Morning*, the six-day-a-week show that replaces both *Morningside* and *Sunday Morning*. Like Enright, *This Morning* executive producer Ian Hunter feels it will take some time to work all the kinks out of the new program. "My guess is that it will be a completely different show next January than it will be on Day 1 in September," he says. Resources are not likely to be a problem. *This Morning* has a staff of 38 and a budget described by *Runes* as "second-highest of [thousand dollars] less than the combined budgets of *Morningside* and *Sunday Morning*, but several hundred thousand dollars more than its sister show." Even the program's title, while not shockingly unoriginal, is unlikely to be a burden. Arnes Bosen. "A good one won't save a bad show, a bad one won't hurt a good show." That's probably true. But all the same, a certain title might help ease some jitters, the kind that plague Michael Enright.

BARRY CAME

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Bushkin: "It was the most important Jewish experience of their lives"

ing on the raw material of the past."

It is only in recent years that mainstream Jewish society has really paid attention to Ashkenazi culture. Montreal pianist Hy Goldstein recalls that in 1981, when he was 15 or 16, he went to the Jewish Conservatory School in Montreal for a concert. "Most Jews were totally unaware of what Klezmer music was." But this summer, Goldstein ran the second annual Klez Canada, a four-day Yiddish cultural camp in the Laurentian Mountains, and was able to attract 300 participants. "Jews and non-Jews alike," he says, "are coming around to this music, like never before."

Yiddish, too, is gaining currency. Meraviv notes that the positive reaction he got for speaking it when he lived in Israel 20 years ago. "Yiddish was seen as the language of violence, of persecution and the Holocaust," he recalls. After growing up for years now, at least some Jewish schools and universities Jewish studies departments are starting to add Yiddish courses. Says Elie Kleiman, a Yiddish lecturer at the University of Toronto: "Finally students said to themselves, 'Gee, I don't know anything about my grandparents' experience, and I can't speak their language.'"

In Montreal's Jewish community, however, Yiddish has always had a presence. The Yiddish Theatre at the Sadye Brodman Centre for the Performing Arts in North York, near Toronto, in October. But with the Ashkenazi festival, people in the Toronto area have dozens of music, dance and theatrical offerings currently at their disposal. The world's largest event dedicated to Yiddish culture, Ashkenazi features some 150 artists in 90 shows ranging from Baruch Behrens Klezmer kungs the Epstein Brothers to a new dance work called Dynamel, performed by the Swedish dance company Nordlana.

Ashkenazi artistic director David Buchlander sees his festival as a way of reviving old traditions. A trumpet and fagelhorn player and leader of the Myring Balzer Klezmer Band, Buchlander, 37, calls a theatre piece called The Monks of Glaciel at Hamlet, in which the New York troupe Great Small Works applies "buffalo logic" to the story of a 17th-century German-Jewish woman. "The festival," he says, "provides a context for new collaborations, for build-

Yiddish culture is on a global upswing

ing for many that sense of unity and power." For months after the last Ashkenazi festival, says Buchlander, "people kept telling me that it was the most important, most overwhelmingly positive Jewish experience of their lives. What that tells me is that there seems no clear, obvious way of being Jewish that has meaning for them. It says to me that mainstream organizations have failed to provide something that gives people."

Shalom Schuchman, a Toronto lawyer and union activist, puts it this way: "There is a hunger for meaning in life, and part of the answer as young kids enter into a tradition and trying to rediscover the positive elements that made life meaningful for Jews 300 or 500 years ago."

ILONA BIRDO



Dalton Camp

A proposal for the premiers: think small

The present government of Canada, of which I am not immediately fond, is continuing its search for ways to deliver the mail swiftly and cheaply over a sparsely settled land, with difficult terrain and an excess of climate. Nostalgia both recalls the days when one could write a letter in the serene confidence that, if mailed, it would be delivered. Of all the things that used to work, including the railroad, Eaton's mail trains and daylight saving, the post office was surely one of them.

No longer. What was once among life's certainties—that the mail would get through—is now another of our national uncertainties and vulnerabilities. The revolutionaries have seized the post office, and after intense time-on-run studies, independent consultant approvals, Zen sessions and much spirited editorial advice, we now have a dysfunctional organization accountable to no one, a black hole in the nation's communications system.

But there's not just one way to have, prelude to a finale against the chaotic folk running the post office. I know they share my pain. Instead, this muted and increased outburst has been triggered by an event that occurred the other day in Fredericton whose venerable and imposing post office on that city's main street has been recently closed and offered for lease. Meanwhile, a group of homeless teenagers began using the building as a shelter—a place to sleep—after removing from the ground and at the local rescue because of the unacceptably cold weather.

There is not, as it turns out, enough space available in the city to accommodate the increasing numbers of homeless teenagers among them.

We are dealing in this instance with perhaps a half-dozen 15- to 18-year-olds who had occupied the post office. After their eviction they took up positions along the street, sitting on the sidewalk with their bags and blankets and other hastily gathered at their feet. In front of them facing the traffic, they had placed a sign that read, "Thank you, care."

When I drove up York Street to turn left on Queen, passing them on the corner, I honked my horn. They waved. By the time I had reached the next light at Westminster, I realized I had already done more to support those young people than had Paul Martin, the entire government of Canada, and New Brunswick Premier Frank McKenna, chairman of the council of Canadian premiers.

There is an enduring and absorbing biblical question to the effect that the poor are always with us. It is likely that so too are homeless children always been with us. But not until the Marklins

ring of the Great Canadian Deafness have we seen as many of them. The sight has not diverted some of our eminent leaders from emphasizing the decline of family values while endorsing the virtues of workdays, more jobs and better justice. But it does, obviously, compel their anxious search for more systemic distinctions and diversions.

Fredericton's old post office is a landmark to the times when efficient postal delivery was both feasible and affordable. As with similar buildings throughout the country, it was a monument to reliability of grand design. The cavernous interior, with its high ceilings and long windows, bespoke a nation of optimism and confidence. That it now stands empty, and crowded by homeless children, is—

I suppose—a metaphor for our times.

Since last month's premiers' conference in St. Andrews, N.B., at which I was a spectator, the national agenda has once again reverted to the subject of "unity." To that end, nine of the 10 premiers (Quebec has been excluded) will meet this fall in Calgary to assess the nation, plan the devolution of federalism and reach accommodation, ultimately, with Quebec. Something like that.

Any organization feeling itself competent to attack so daunting an agenda should be able to do something about the many problems of homeless teenagers during its first coffee break. Especially since it's their problem.

Based on preliminary research and early throat-clearing postulations, the premiers are unlikely to strike a gusher in the national unity field while visiting the site. But without breaking into a serious sweat, they could make a proposal to deal with the nation's homeless children before the snow falls. And then, over lunch, they could save the post office. After all, the federal government has already done its part by publicly stating it will not allow any increase in the cost of postage for the next two years. See how easy that is?

Government continues to be the art of the possible. The present generation of political strategists finds this a hard hurdle to swallow. The difficulty of actually achieving the possible is twofold: it creates the impression that government can work, which runs counter to prevailing political dogmas—all rooted in the belief the world would be a better place if managed by the Club of Rome.

Second, grand designs of national reconfiguration are part of the great Canadian continuum. Getting homeless kids in out of the cold, as our insulation, is church work. But saving the country can't be left to voluntarism, and the beauty of that is that while first ministers never quite succeed at it, they never quite fail either. In the end, they will be remembered, as F.R. Scott said of Marklins as King, "wherever men honor ingenuity, ambiguity, inactivity, and political longevity."



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